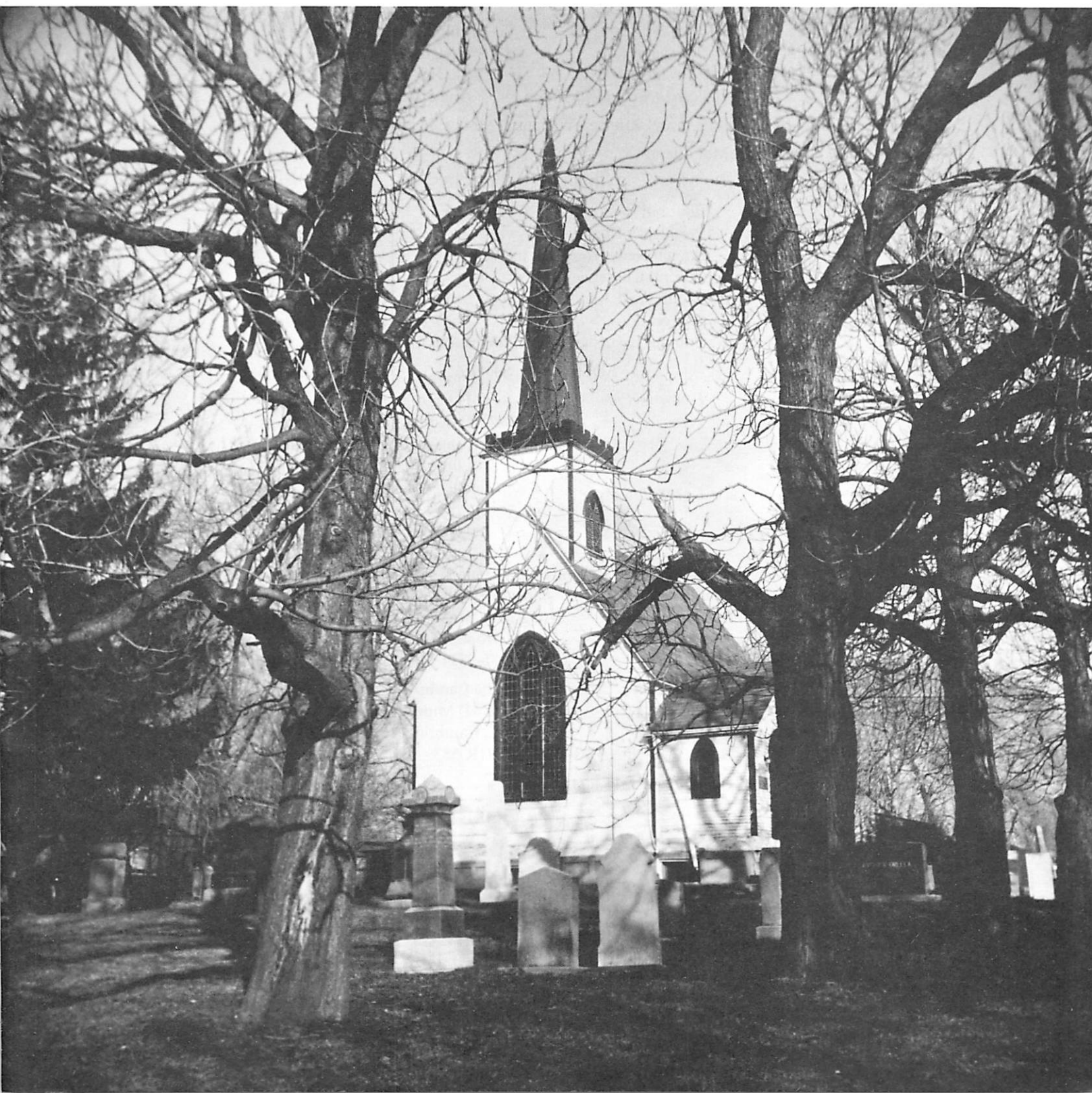


ACORN

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc. Newsletter



Fall 1988



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FALL 1988

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.

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A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

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Cover Photo: Old St. Jude's, Wexford, 1848-49

A picturesque survivor of rural religious faith submerged but not subjugated by the great urban sprawl of Metropolitan Toronto.

A welcome relief from our great wen, we bring you comfort and joy emanating from this delightful discovery.

For further information see Scarborough under Around and About Ontario.

PJS Photo November 1988

EDITORIAL

There is so much in the fields of the Conservancy's concerns to interest you that it is almost impossible to keep you posted fully. Yet we shall continue to try to do so. Of course your help is always welcome in sending in information you find pertinent or interesting. We would welcome letters to the editor, but make sure that you address these and other material correctly, that is using the postal box number also, otherwise this may foul the "sortation"! at our local post office. (What happened to the good, old - and shorter - word "sorting"? But if John Bentley Mays of that well-known Toronto production, the Globe and Mail, stoops to "recognization" instead of "recognition" it is obvious that, together with the diabolical split infinitive beloved of all the media, we have been conquered already by a free trade in sloppy, bureaucratic balderdash!) After that explosion, we still reserve the right to print and edit.

Although we keep plugging along, trying to keep abreast of developments, wishing to be more positive and encouraging in our reports, we realize that the pungency of our peppery comments may become too much and look constantly for more of the salt of success. Let us know of any projects great and small, even details, that shed a ray of welcome light and warmth in an all-too-dismal conservation world. We need courage, to have courage by being encouraged, to count your gains and share your losses. All is not lost, we believe, despite heritage legislation neither properly understood nor fully explored yet fraught already with a web becoming ever stickier for anyone trying to fly by this growing official, sometimes officious, behemoth. We take delight and heart in watching a bumble-bee buzz from blossom to blossom of a wild aster, the fuzzy body bedecked with pollen, knowing that each alighting will fertilize for seed and make possible another Michaelmas daisy. There are still a few wild asters in the conservation field waiting for their bumble-bees, you perhaps, gaining experience as you practice and you preach, gathering yet more helpers in the process and convincing by example and success that it is worth conserving our built heritage and our landscapes, made and natural. Don't despair, despite a province pro-development and a prosperity contra-conservation. It merely takes more effort, more subtlety, often moral suasion and ever concerted action of like-minded individuals and groups.

So much for our disjointed sermon. However 1988 has been a year of review with Julia Beck's excellent report on the ACO, its history, qualities, deficiencies, with recommendations for changes and thoughts of consolidation as well as new directions. You will note that yet another section has been added to this issue, namely Sources, to become we hope a compendium of valuable and interesting information related to conservation needs. In the next issue we intend to start our Alphabet Ontario, the first subject to be Aylmer. This year you had to be content with three issues, though selecting a theme seemed to be a very rewarding exercise as well as being fun. So we are looking forward to four issues in 1989, the first to have Façadism as its main subject, the second perhaps Landscape, both fashioned and natural, a third Schools, a fourth possibly Churches. Keep these subjects in mind: drop us an article, a paragraph, a photograph, a sketch, even a line or two. Please remember our tentative 1989 deadlines for copy as follows:

Spring	-	Friday, 17 February
Summer	-	Friday, 12 May
Fall	-	Friday, 13 October
Winter	-	Friday, 17 February

And don't forget copy arriving even a little before those dates is always welcome.

Thank you all for your help and encouragement, you Branch editors for your copy and illustrations and contributions to the Railway Issue I.

With great pleasure may we wish all of you of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, best wishes for the coming season and the year approaching.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A HAPPY BEGINNING TO 1989

A Toast to Stratford and Mitchell

On Saturday evening, November 19th, 1988 under starry skies and an almost full moon, Stratford Heritage Trust celebrated its formal incorporation at the Church Restaurant with black ties, glitter and a champagne supper.

To a town already used to stars and glitter, something new was being added - an exciting sense of heritage and the recognition of the important Victorian buildings in the core.

The short term goals of the Trust will be to identify a project, take it on and use it as a showcase. The long term goal is to restore the southern Ontario Victorian core of Stratford. Where there are gaps there will be a goal of sympathetic construction.

The dynamic President is Dr. David Thompson, the Secretary, Susan Patterson and Treasurer, Ed Macmillan.

One of the particularly happy tables was the group from Mitchell, Ontario. The Mitchell Historical Society, which has an affiliation with the Stratford Heritage Trust, has already bravely purchased the Hicks House, owned originally by the founder of Mitchell, and has raised \$150,000. Their goal is another \$15,000. to restore and convert the building into apartments and on the lower level a commercial block. David Thompson says this is a very important building to keep in Southern Ontario.

Margaret Goodbody, President of Heritage Cambridge, and Vice-President, of the ACO, Inc.; Spencer Higgins, Restoration Architect and Vice-President, ACO, Inc., and Donna Baker, President, of the ACO, Inc. joined the celebrations.

I think it's time we had a celebration party. Let's think about it as we begin 1989.

BRANCH NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

QUINTE REGION

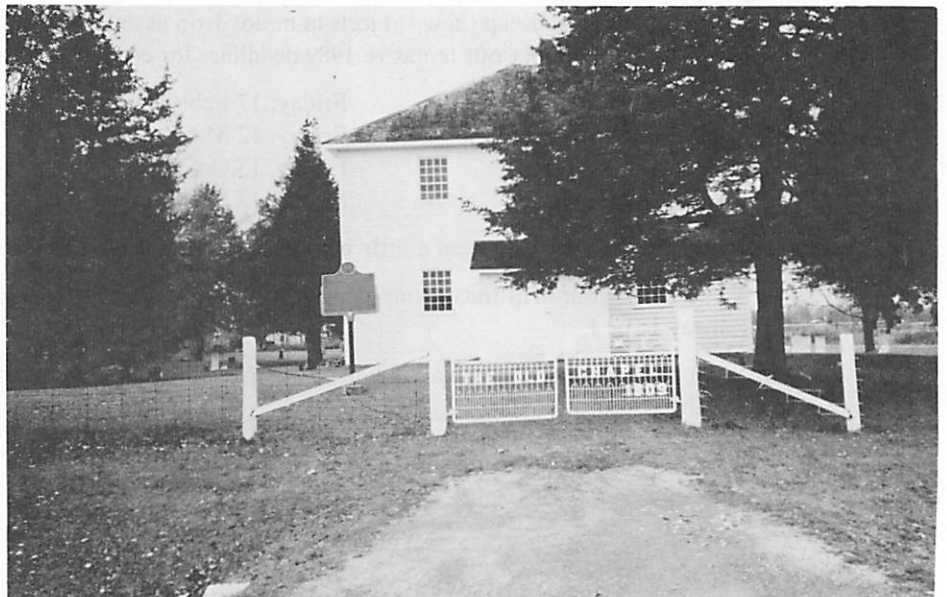
The White Chapel

Strange to think of the mammoth and earth-shattering enterprises that go on within a few yards of the White Chapel's hallowed calm. But they do, and more are proposed.

The cement plant is a mile or so up the high Sophiasburgh shore from the White Chapel. Though there have sometimes been dust problems and the plant gobbles up an astounding amount of ground, we consider the sight of it very beautiful from several points of view.

It is especially lovely when viewed from Macaulay's Mountain as part of the backdrop for the town of Picton. By day the massive plant with its plume of vapour looks like a many-towered medieval city under siege; by night, strung with sparkling lights, it resembles some great ocean liner, perhaps the Royal Yacht Britannia, reflecting majestically in Picton's bay.

The cement plant is a singular and impressive object seen from as far as the



The White Chapel, 1809, near Picton.

Glenora ferry area, too, and from all the dwellings that line the miles of shore from there to Picton along the route of the Loyalist Parkway. We have always said that a second big plant next to this one,

say an oil refinery, would be a great mistake and would ruin the beauty that the present plant has. Some people think even the one plant is too much, and rural calm and recreational pursuits should be the

order of the day.

Read Cruickshank and Stokes's *The Settler's Dream* for an account of The White Chapel, just outside Picton, erected in 1809 and thought to be Ontario's oldest church in continuous use. Actually, since probably 1823 it has been known as The Old Chapel, for the centre of Methodist activity shifted then from now-peaceful cove of Hallowell Mills into the thriving commercial centre of Hallowell, now Picton.

The Chapel is indeed white, and ACO is well aware of it, for three or four summers ago our Branch engineered a federal SEED grant to help pay some summer students to give the Chapel a new coat of white paint. But the building is in no way neglected and is carefully maintained by the United Church.

The modern highway has been re-routed to swing around behind the White Chapel. When you visit this apparently secluded spot and its peaceful graveyard you may wonder why sometimes a huge truck passes the gate and turns down a dirt road through the shrubbery. Follow the truck, just a few yards, and you come on a scene of grandeur and desolation almost totally invisible from the outside world.

What looks from the harbour like a solid limestone escarpment, with perhaps an ocean-going vessel tied up to it, turns out to be merely a thinnish wall of rock, behind which there is an enormous hollow thirty feet deep.

This hole took Bethlehem Steel three years to dig, back about 1953. You may or

may not notice the underground tunnels and conveyor belts, now disused it seems, which for twenty years handled the pelletized iron ore shipped daily through the County by train from an immensely vast pit at Marmora.

The familiar sound of the noon-time ore train crossing the County is heard no more, but the great iron trestle still skirts the edge of this storage pit where the moving cars used to dump their load for transshipment by lake boat. Now, down in this alarming hole, one sees great black or white heaps of coal or gypsum or salt being scooped and loaded into trucks, for this dock facility has not been idle. The ore train rumbled rather close behind the White Chapel; the loaded or empty trucks now roar past its front gate.

On November 10, a very largely attended public meeting was held by the County's Planning Advisory Committee to gather information about a new proposal for the old Bethlehem Steel site. A company wants to build a plant with as many as sixteen assembly lines running 24 hours a day, employing up to 350 workers to make logs of compressed coal dust. The coal would come in by ship to a 100 foot wide gap they propose to cut in the rock face where the present conveyor goes through. The product would be loaded into ships again at the same spot, without using the railroad or highway. The coal would come from the States, and the product would go to the States, and we are told there is a billion-dollar market for these compressed coal logs, worldwide.

The factory would be below ground level and the whole enterprise fairly invis-

ible and inaudible behind berms and planting on the landward side. We are assured that the greatest care would be taken to avoid noise, pollution, danger, and dirt. Of course, apart from the one newly enlarged gap (and we really can't see why it has to be bigger than the present aperture, big enough for the conveyor belts) they would leave untouched the limestone escarpment toward the water, and nothing would be visible above it at all.

Planning permission is already in place at the Township and County levels for the industrial use of this site. What alarms people (and they certainly attended the November 10 meeting in great numbers) is that this company will apply for a quarrying licence. The company expects to spend perhaps five years blasting out more rock to make room inside the cliff -for the factory, for storage, and for parking. The crushed rock is to be shipped out by boat for sale in Oshawa and Toronto. They assure us that the low rumble of blasting twice a day for five years or so will hardly be noticed, and that even for a building as close as the White Chapel the vibration will not be so damaging as the daily and seasonal changes in humidity and temperature undoubtedly are already. And, we might add, the vibration of passing traffic.

We think the plan sounds great. The applicant promises that aesthetically the site will look better than it does now, and his plans show an environmentally protected zone around the edges and particularly in front of the White Chapel.

The promise of jobs seems attractive to



Bethlehem Steel site from the water.



The quarried pit behind the cliff face.

Photos 1988 by Rodger C. Greig.

our politicians. Blasting and all, this project is nothing compared to the truly stupendous and all-engulfing scale of the cement plant's excavations just next door. We realize that Picton's deep water and protected location ensure an almost unrivalled docking facility that should be utilized. And we think the sight of big ships coming and going is endlessly fascinating, even a good tourist attraction.

We regret that the railroad does not figure in this proposal. It too is an important link with the outside world, a utility much desired and hard-won 110 years ago to bring economic benefits to the area and still potentially valuable.

Two speakers from the audience at the November 10 meeting raised the question of routing the main entrance to this new enterprise away from the White Chapel and more directly out to the highway. We picture this as leaving the Chapel isolated on a triangular block with a house each side of it, and we think this idea merits attention.

Beck Report

The Quinte Region Branch takes Julia Beck's report very seriously. We have little to say about her analysis of the central council's and advisory board's functions, but think that the notion of a ten-year program sounds excellent and that the hiring of a coordinator is essential. We agree that resources should be devoted to making ACORN strong and attractive, one of the very foundations of our work.

Our attempts to define and serve the whole of the Quinte Region are very much in line with Mrs. Beck's recommendations regarding the Branches. It would take you several hours to drive across our Region, say Campbellford to Amherstview or Cherry Valley to Moscow. I say nothing of Bancroft or Denbigh, or the fact that Hastings County touches on Algonquin Park.

Of course, our Branch had its start with an architectural emergency in Belleville, in 1983. We could probably continue as a strong and active Belleville Branch, but we have thought that's not enough. Month after month we have visited and viewed communities in our area - more than fifty walking tours so far - and just the sight of eighty people in a bunch looking at build-

ings is bound to have aroused some interest.

But Mrs. Beck stresses the need for ACO to gather more members, and to set up new branches, and for the branches to meet together and keep in touch. Applying this thinking to the Quinte Region, we think that we should immediately elect a "Vice-President", shall we say, in each area we hope to serve. A minimum of six would be desirable, covering The Trent Valley, Hastings North, Hastings South, Lennox and Addington North, Lennox and Addington South, and Prince Edward County, but far more divisions could be established, according to local initiative.

With any luck, each Vice-President could gather enough strength to be considered head of a "Chapter" of our Branch: a Deputy Vice-President, a Newsletter Correspondent, a LACAC Liaison, a Program Chairman, and a Recording & Documentation Chairman forming the probable minimum. Chapters would be expected to submit a budget to the Branch Council with respect to any activities they might undertake. The ideal would be for some or all of these Chapters to become ACO Branches on their own ultimately.

Recording and Documentation should be one of our great priorities just now: there should be photographs, at least, of everything we have looked at on the fifty or more tours we have taken so far.

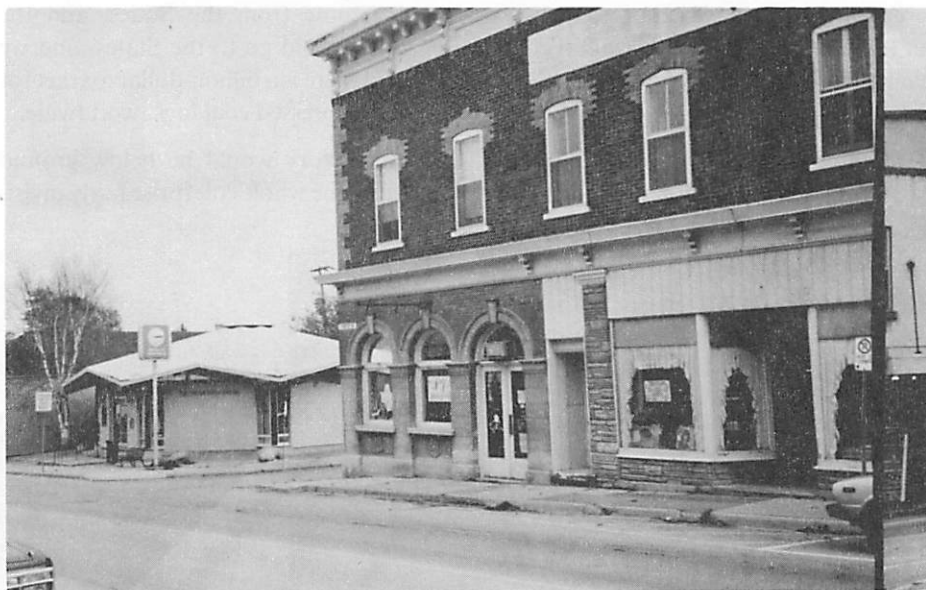
Annual General Meeting

The Quinte Region's Annual General Meeting will be the third Sunday in January, in connection with the 2 p.m. tour of Belleville's renovated City Hall. We propose to hold Branch Council meetings quarterly through 1989: at 10 a.m. of a weekday nine or ten days after the regular third Sunday events of January, April, July and October always in some architecturally interesting and reasonably central place that can be easily reached, and most fully appreciated, by daylight. Our Third Sunday Architectural Walking Tours will continue every month except December, though two or three will be more in the nature of a lecture than an actual walkabout.

FAÇADOLOGY

LACACs and others keep mouthing the myth that only the façade of your heritage building is important and you can do "what you like" with the rest of it. In the case of Victorian main street commercial fronts, there is often a good deal of truth in this idea, for the original owner in many cases was concerned mainly with putting up a fashionable and impressive front, and whatever went behind was badly skimped.

This conventional pattern, generally three-storey masonry fronts with openings rhythmically ordered in vertical bays and a remotely classical cornice at the top, is



Small town good manners in an early twentieth century bank renovation and bad manners in the Floppy Chapeau style beyond, Stirling, Ontario.

infinitely variable and applicable to many uses and circumstances. Our older main streets depend on it, for their usual block-to-block streetscape. More domestic or rural buildings that may chance to survive here and there from an earlier day in this commercial matrix may be regarded with surprise and affection and accorded the respect of museum pieces. Otherwise, for a present-day builder to break up the conventional mid-Victorian main street pattern is to be marked as cranky, exhibitionist, or slovenly, and can generally be seen as a grave disservice to a town's streetscape.

Banks have a great deal to answer for. Even their classical façades of about 1910 that we lovingly restore today were often bombastically out of scale with their setting.

We show a much nicer bank in Stirling inserted rather graciously, about the turn of the century, into a slightly older Victorian corner building. But look across the street. Who asked the Bank of Montreal to put up a cute little garden pavilion? Would we not much rather have had something with the general scale and materials and dignity of the buildings up and down the street?

In Napanee our Quinte Region Branch was able to pay for an engineer's survey of a main-street building that had burned out. The building was gone and the façade stood alone, and town authorities were afraid it might fall. But we were convinced it could stand and be reused and remain a credit to the town instead of being replaced with (as so often happens) a one-storey booth. The survey carried conviction, and the façade was kept. Our photo, taken during our October 1988 walking tour, shows the façade, full-height and retaining its tricky pilasters and its carriageway and its window arches. But we blush to see how the owner has lowered each window-sill by two feet, and fitted two storeys in where there used to be just one row of tall windows.

In Picton, Teasel's drugstore has forsaken its really grand and familiar premises specially built for it about 1860, to demolish another smaller but modestly elegant building of almost exactly the same age and put up a new building in its place. "Heritage" types like us are supposed to admire the re-use of the iron window-hoods, and the fact that this is not a mere one-storey building. We have not learned the name of the bricklayer, nor yet of the architect.



Dundas Street, Napanee: A fire-damaged building, originally a two-storey front, with a three-storey conversion.

Ed comment:

We wonder if Rodger Greig's term Façadology is a euphemism for Criminal Façadism or Teaselng. Picton style: need we say more about this architectural abomination!



The recent Teasel replacement: something went wrong to create this modern misfit, a somewhat cocky hat twittily tipped.

A robbery is not a fair exchange: Stark's Meat Market prior to demolition, Main Street, Picton.

PORT HOPE

Turning the Stars Back On

Architecture buffs and cinemaphiles breathed a sigh of relief when it was learned that Rod Stewart, a local contractor with a keen interest in historic buildings, purchased the Capitol Theatre. While not the oldest building in town, its romantic atmosphere marks it as a building of major significance, a glamorous architectural testimony to the silver screen.

The future of the Capitol has been up in the air since 1986 when the owners unceremoniously closed it and put it up for sale in a cost-cutting move. Perhaps it made economic sense, as the same owners also held an interest in the Cobourg theatre and there seemed little merit in operating two separate venues in such a small area. But it appears there was also fear of competition, for attached to the Capitol sale was a covenant preventing new owners from using it as a movie-house. And to drive the point home, all 450 or so seats were removed, along with the projection equipment. A local consortium bought the building, but plans for its use were indefinite.

Port Hope residents were dismayed at the thought of life without cinema, and such an uproar ensued that the issue was even covered by *Maclean's* magazine. Central to the controversy was the building itself, which is claimed to be the first theatre in Ontario specifically built for 'talkies'. It is a remarkable period piece, rich in fantasy decor that rivals its better-known contemporary, the Winter Garden in Toronto. Indeed, both are the work of the same architect, Murray Brown.

The trip into architectural fantasy begins outside, where the façade adopts the character of a castle with diamond-paned windows. Completing the medieval metaphor, the original square marquee (since replaced with the present triangular model), has been likened to a drawbridge. But the real treats lie inside, where the frescoed ceiling suggests that you are sitting in a castle. Twilight sky, hanging vines and castellated battlements are all part of the painted festivities. Much of the artwork was rendered not in paint but in wet coloured plaster, according to the traditional fresco method and an army of plasterers was on hand to get the work



This 1930 view of the Capitol Theatre will serve as the inspiration for exterior renovation.

done before it had a chance to dry. When the Capitol opened in 1930, its promoters declared it "the most beautiful theatre anywhere in Canada", and it's hard to disagree.

All the finery is still there, a bit grimy and soiled over the years, but still inspiring. It was this quality that attracted Stewart, who is determined to conserve the artwork. Parts of it have been damaged by a leaky roof, but with designation proceedings underway, Stewart is seeking up to \$150,000 in funding from the provincial government to be spent on restoration.

Best of all, the covenant preventing the theatre from being used as a cinema has been overturned in the courts — maybe

the movies will come back to Port Hope after all.

More Good News on Walton Street

Port Hope's main drag, Walton Street, is abuzz with restoration activity. In addition to the rehabilitation of the two commercial blocks mentioned in the Summer '88 issue of *ACORN*, work on yet another building is proceeding nicely. The William Furbey House, the oldest frame structure on Walton Street, is almost ready for occupancy.

Built as a combination furniture-making shop and residence, the house has interior details that date to the 1830s. However, it owes its present appearance to renovations completed after a fire in Victorian times.

In recent years, the house looked somewhat forlorn, its potential lost on all but a few preservationists and there was a real concern over its future. As it takes its rightful place among Port Hope's restored buildings, the Furbey House will now serve as the office for Historic Property Consulting Services, a local firm that specializes in restoration.

Pondering Penryn Park

The recent sale of Penryn Park marks a milestone in the history of this fascinating estate on Port Hope's western edge. For over 90 years, the 120-acre property has been maintained by the King family and their descendants, which includes Alice King Sculthorpe, dedicated preservationist and former ACO president. Penryn Park had been up for sale for years, as the family waited patiently for a buyer who would be sympathetic to the historical character of the place. A prospective purchase in 1986 fell through, but recently it was announced that the vast estate and its Gothic manor house were at last changing hands.

The sale marks the end of an era that begins with Colonel Arthur Williams, the local son in control of a vast family fortune in real estate, lumbering and mining. He gained national fame as the "Hero of Batoche" during the Riel Rebellion when he led the military charge against the Métis that proved to be the turning point in the uprising.

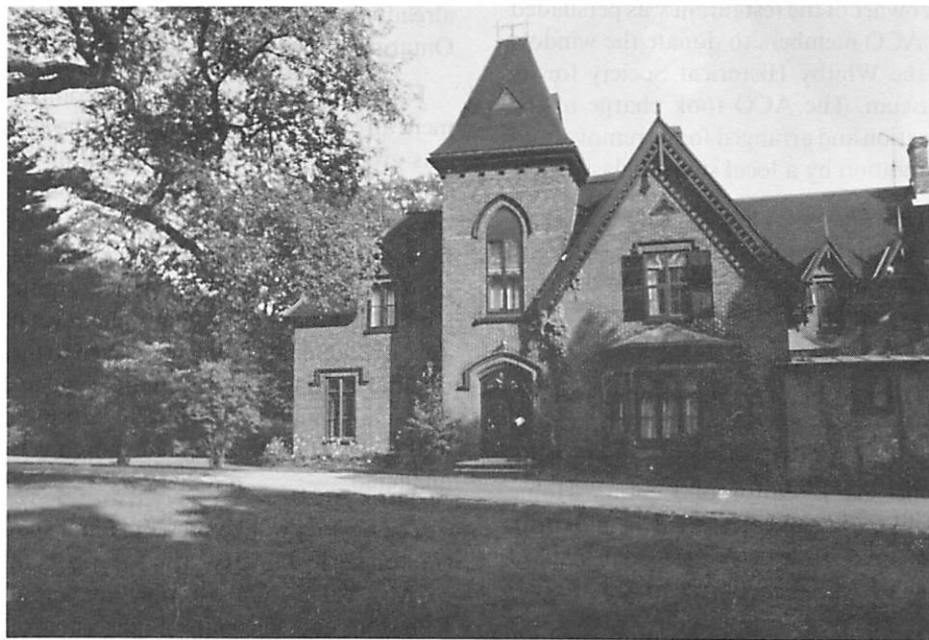
Penryn Park was Williams's home. He had built it in 1859 on his father's acreage, and displayed the family's affluence not only in the size of the house, but also in its grand architectural accountments. A textbook example of Gothicism (a very similar prototype appears in A.J. Downing's 1850s book *The Architecture of Country Houses* which could well have been Williams' inspiration), Penryn Park is unabashedly grand and stylish with steep gables, lofty tower and fretted barge-board. Standing adjacent to a ravine, its pastoral setting enhances the striking composition.

In 1894, the estate was purchased by Henry King, one of a colony of American entrepreneurs that made Cobourg and Port Hope their summer home. Since then the old landmark, as well as other

buildings, have become favourites among local architecture buffs. It has even caught the eye of movie-makers: both the interior and exterior were used extensively for location shooting in "Anne of Green Gables, The Sequel".

No longer practical as a family residence, Penryn Park had been converted to a restaurant, and the grounds turned into a golf course. And although there was never any question in the minds of the owners or the public that the house should be preserved, the ultimate fate of Penryn Park was never clear. Hence, it was reassuring to learn that the most recent purchasers,

AON Inc. of Peterborough, intend to incorporate the old building into their plans. The site will be developed with over 100 condominium units, and converted to use as an adult lifestyle community. No doubt this will alter the pastoral setting, but the site is large enough that much of the traditional charm will prevail. Best of all, the star of the show will continue to be the Gothic manor, adapted to function as an inn or restaurant. And while Penryn's days as a grand private enclave are coming to a close, it's a relief to know that the spirit will live on.



Penryn Park, the Gothic fantasy of Col. Arthur Williams, has recently changed hands.

Photo: Tom Cruickshank

DURHAM REGION

After missing the last issue of *Acorn*, Peter has leaned on me to get my act in gear and write something for this one. Since the Spring issue, there has not been a lot to report on the heritage front in Durham Region.

Ross Brothers Window

Perhaps the most significant development was the discovery of a stained glass window hidden behind the sign of a downtown business in Whitby. The stained glass had formed the upper part of the window of the Ross Brothers Dry Goods Store from about 1910 to the mid-twenties when it was covered up by a piece of cheap particle type board. Through the years the sign in front had been changed several times but nobody had ever looked behind this board. Ironically, it was only removed when a contractor who was extending the angel-stone on the face of the building felt it was too flimsy a base for the stonework and decided to remove it.

Fortunately, he had the sense to realize the significance of what he had found and the owner of the restaurant was persuaded by ACO members to donate the window to the Whitby Historical Society for its museum. The ACO took charge of the situation and arranged for its removal and restoration by a local stained glass firm.

The window is in three sections and is in remarkably good condition. The only damage was where a few nails and electrical wires had been driven through it.

Preservation Awards

The judging of the first annual preservation awards for the branch took place in late August/early September with Tom Cruickshank, editor of *Century Home* (and Port Hope's correspondent in *Acorn*), and Fred Roles, former Chairman of Ajax's LACAC, acting as judges.

The winners in the restoration category were John and Vera Hugel for their 1840s brick and stone house. The manner in which this house was acquired from a developer and restored on site while a subdivision was being built around them was especially noteworthy.

Bill Little won in the adaptive re-use category for Pearson Lanes, an innovative commercial conversion of four 1911 brick



Ross Bros. sign being removed by stained glass artist, Steve Jepson (right) and assistant. This Art Nouveau design had decorated the dry goods and clothing store run by the Brothers Ross, George and

Hugh, from 1878 to 1924. Donated by restaurant owner Ming Fong to the Whitby Historical Society, restoration funded by Durham Region Branch of the ACO.

Whitby Free Press photo.

houses (two of which had been moved from across the street where they were about to be demolished.) This project has already won honourable mention in the Ontario Renews awards.

For new construction designed to complement an existing heritage building the nod was given to the new Parish Hall of St. Thomas Anglican Church in Brooklin. This small frame country church designed by architect Henry Langley needed a lot more space. The addition is actually quite a bit bigger than the original church yet it does not dominate it. It is connected to the original by one corridor and except for two small windows which were relocated in the new Hall, the original church was unaltered.

The awards will be presented at a special dinner in January. The speaker is to be Mr. Val Swain, a former mayor of Kingston and currently a governor of Heritage Canada.

Lynde House Designation

A Heritage Review Board hearing was held in October on the designation of Lynde House.

Lynde House was moved from its original site to Cullen Gardens, a tourist attraction, in August of 1986 by the Town

of Whitby. Now privately owned, the house has been restored and the owners have applied for designation.

This writer, along with others in the ACO, was one of the leaders to prevent it being moved, objected to the designation on the grounds it had been moved and because the Town, which was now being asked to provide protection for the building through designation, had not provided any protection when the building needed it and had in fact been the prime instigator in its removal to Cullen Gardens.

The Review Board decision is expected soon.

Oshawa CPR Station

The Durham ACO has taken some interest in the preservation of the 1911 CPR station in Oshawa. However, CPR has received approval to demolish it by all responsible agencies. Oshawa, which has no LACAC, offered no objection. The building has been unused for many years, and though vandalized, is still in reasonably good condition. A number of letters were sent to various agencies but apparently to no avail.

Tremaine Map

The Tremaine map which was shown in the Spring issue has been restored, moun-

ted, framed and donated to the library by the ACO. The branch tried to get some kind of a grant from the Ministry of Culture and Communications to assist with the restoration which cost \$1800 but after months of runaround, doubletalk and frustration, we went it alone.

All approvals for the conversion of the Carnwith mansion in Brooklin to an alcoholic rehabilitation centre have been granted including that of the Whitby LACAC. The early stages of that conversion have included the demolition of the smoke house and apple barns which dated from before 1880.

Residents of Whitby were shocked recently when Family Trust real estate demolished a Victorian commercial building it owned on the main street and a week later released plans to build a pseudo-Victorian replacement. The same company also owns a key 1874 building right at the four corners in Whitby.



The apple barn, a pre-1880 structure being demolished, with the smokehouse, at the Carnwith mansion in Brooklin.

Whitby Free Press photo.

TORONTO REGION

As promised in the last issue of Acorn the Toronto Region branch has had a very active fall season. It started with the B. Napier Simpson Jr. Memorial lecture on Sunday October 3rd. The lecture *Terra Cotta: Artful Deceivers* was given by Mr. Drew Krouse, Proprietor of the Boston Valley Mill, Hamburg, New York. A display of photographs by Mr. Charles Kinghorn was mounted at this lecture and illustrated the significant terra cotta buildings in Toronto's core. The CHUM City building, given an Award of Merit by ACT, is an excellent example.

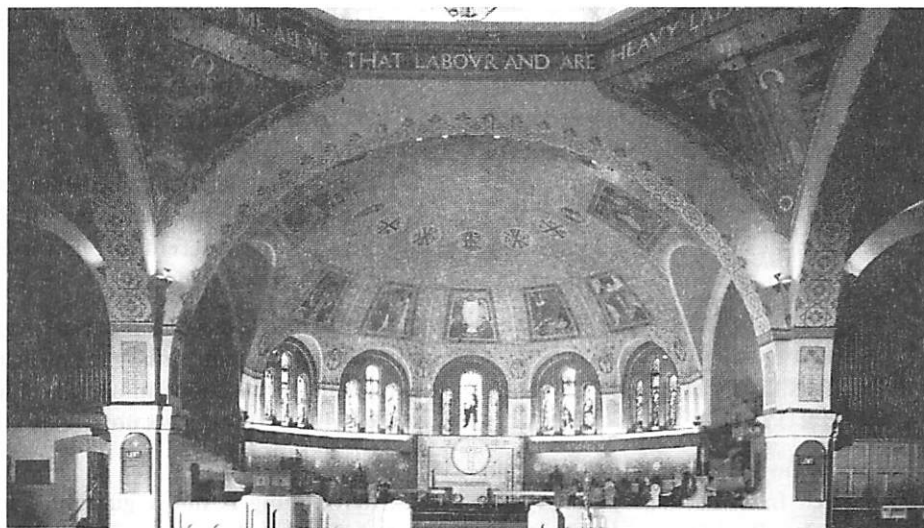
On October 11th, the Toronto Region branch and the Friends of the Eaton Auditorium jointly launched their campaign to make the restoration of the seventh floor of 444 Yonge Street a reality. Celebrities and dignitaries were on hand to assist in the sale of lapel buttons specially designed and created for the campaign. Photographs, drawings and other art work were on display.

Five days later, on Sunday afternoon, there was a walking tour of Synagogues in the old Kensington district of Toronto. The group met at Kiever Synagogue, 28 Denison Square, near Bathurst and Dundas streets. Kiever was designed by Benjamin

Swartz in 1930 and currently is being restored. A tour of the interior and of six other synagogues was conducted by Dr. Stephen Speisman, a noted authority on the topic and an entertaining raconteur.

The following Sunday afternoon, October 23rd, branch president Alec Keefer led a tour up Yonge street from College street to Bloor street. The emphasis was on learning to "read" buildings, identify and categorize them by period.

The October program ended with a well-attended lecture on the *Architecture and Decoration of St. Anne's Church* on Sunday the thirtieth. Cathy Mastin, an Art History graduate who did her Master's thesis on St. Anne's, and who currently lectures at York University, gave an excellent lecture on the Byzantine-style architecture, the reasons for choosing this style, and the manner in which it was executed. She described the mural program that



The interior of St. Anne's Church, Gladstone Avenue, Toronto.

was placed in charge of J.E.H. MacDonald and demonstrated how F.H. Varley, always an individualist, did not subscribe to the flat, two-dimensional effects advocated by MacDonald.

This fine lecture was excellent preparation for a tour and presentation that was held at the church the first Sunday in November. An Award of Merit was given to the congregation of St. Anne's Church, 276 Gladstone Avenue, for their ongoing efforts to maintain this beautiful and rare (in Canada) structure that W. Ford Howland designed for them in 1907. The congregation is facing a huge bill of \$150,000 for repairs to just the dome and needs, and deserves, every bit of support it can muster. No parishioner was more delighted to receive the Award than Don Holland, a hard-working member of the branch executive.

A second November church lecture and tour was held on Sunday the 13th at St. Peter's Church, 188 Carlton street. This church, one of Toronto's finest polychromatic brick buildings, was built in three stages, in 1865, 1872 and 1880, to designs by Gundry and Langley. The lecturer, Corey Keeble, on the staff of the Royal Ontario Museum, focused on the old and new stained glass in St. Peters.

The final church lecture and tour took place at Metropolitan United Church, on the north-west corner of Church and Queen streets, on Saturday, November 19th. Metropolitan United Church, built in 1870-72 and designed by Henry Langley, and rebuilt in 1928 after a fire to plans by J. Gibb Morton, is one of Toronto's great downtown churches. Tour guide Bill Cousintine, superintendent of nearby Massey Hall, an ACT member and preservation activist, is very knowledgeable about the church and many other buildings in this area as well. Miss Judith St. John, author of a book on the history of the church also was present to answer questions and to autograph copies of her book which was on sale.

DOCUMENTS IN ARCHIVES MAY BE DESTROYED

Below is the text of an alarming memo we received from heritage planner and ACT member Paul Dilse concerning the transfer to microfilm of many documents

in the Archives of Ontario, and the imminent destruction of many of the originals:

MEMO:

To: Alec Keefer, Toronto Region Architectural Conservancy President

From: Mr. Paul Dilse, Heritage Planner

On June 9th while doing a title search, I was directed to use microfilmed copies of the instruments and memorials that I was interested in. Researchers no longer have access to the original documents, and on the day I was there, there were queues waiting to use the two microfilm readers. I gave up the idea of trying to use the microfilmed copies. I then learned that the original documents would soon be destroyed.

I have since telephoned John England, Senior Deputy Registrar, at the Toronto Land Registry Office, Pat Holmes, Records Manager, at the Archives of Ontario, and Richard Ramsay, an archivist, at the Provincial Archives.

The Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations which operates all land registry offices in Ontario has decided to implement "paperless offices." In the Toronto office, original instruments and memorials dated 1790 to 1867 are being transferred to the Archives of Ontario for storage in a suburban warehouse. Original instruments dated 1868 to 1947 will be destroyed except for those selected to have a special interest, e.g. instruments with illustrative material attached. Researchers will only have self-serve microfilmed copies available to them at the Registry Office, or they can look at handwritten copy books (containing copies of original instruments and memorials) at York University. Original instruments postdating 1867 are now ready for disposal.

This records management project is seriously flawed:

1. Original materials kept together in one place for nearly two centuries will be scattered to different depositories. Access is greatly reduced.
2. Microfilmed copies of complicated legal documents in handwriting are difficult to read and without more machines available to researchers not practically accessible at all.
3. Microfilming is not a guarantee for preservation. Film tears, reels are lost or misplaced, and photography can be

poor. Usually, microfilm is used as a backup; originals are kept and treasured.

4. The date of 1867 seems arbitrary. The Archives of Ontario has limited space and felt compelled to accept only a portion of the documents. In Toronto, for architectural research, instruments before 1882 when building permits first appeared are extremely valuable in determining land ownership and sorting out assessment roll information.
5. The project greatly underestimates the monetary value of the documents. Instead of at least being sold, they are being destroyed.

The Ministry's project questions the whole process of disposal of archival materials in Ontario. Why weren't organizations interested in historical research consulted?

After Mr. Dilse's warning, the Toronto Region branch met on July 26th with officials of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the Archivist for the Province of Ontario. At that meeting, government officials volunteered a moratorium on the proposed disposal of documents pending a review. As soon as we are apprized of the status of the documents we will consult with our allies in the heritage field and attempt to formulate a plan to guarantee that this irreplaceable paper heritage survives. It belongs to all Canadians and must be preserved.

E.J. Lennox Building in Peril

If Markborough Properties (owned by the same interests controlling the Bay and Simpsons) and Trizec have their way all that will survive of the original Aikenhead Hardware store at 17 Temperance Street will be the front wall. The building will be recreated elsewhere on the block as a façade with brand new east and west walls built with bricks salvaged from the demolition of the real walls. This is the most recent solution that has been worked out by the negotiating teams. It certainly is a vast improvement over earlier schemes. The Conservancy is mandated to save buildings. Is the current solution architectural conservation?

The former Aikenhead store was designed by architect E.J. Lennox for the Comet Bicycle Factory in 1898. In 1906,

when Aikenhead purchased the property, Mr. Lennox modified the building to suit the new owners. The rear of the structure, now blackened by soot, is made of buff brick decoratively trimmed with red brick. In the more recent past the present black Vitrolite storefront was installed and the west and north walls were given a decorative coat of pastel paint.

Since in this case we know who is the owner who will demolish 17 Temperance Street we ask for your help. If you would like to ensure that this important building survives intact, write a brief note and enclose it with your Bay or Simpsons bill next time you pay your charge account. If you don't have an account, send your note in anyway.

Aikenhead Building, E.J. Lennox, Architect, Temperance Street, Toronto.

Seen from Richmond Street West against the modern welter of downtown building including the new Scotia Plaza. Oasis in a desert? PJS Photo 1988



HAMILTON-NIAGARA

Activities and Events

The main event to look forward to in the fall is the annual Thomas B. McQuesten Awards ceremony, which was held again at "Whitehern", the former McQuesten family home, on November 15 at 8:00 p.m. Candidates included the old St. John's Church in Stamford, City of Niagara Falls and three Hamilton projects the Thomas B. McQuesten High Level Bridge, the Custom House and the Carnegie Building (former Hamilton Public Library).

An event which the Flamborough LACAC hopes to repeat in years to come is the presentation of Certificates of Commendation for the accurate restoration, excellent maintenance or noteworthy improvement of heritage properties within the Town of Flamborough. The LACAC astutely decided to hold these ceremonies before regular Council meetings. The second such ceremony took place June 18, with a total of eleven awards being presented by the Mayor. The one restoration award went to the owners of the American

Hotel in Waterdown for removing the angelstone from the façade and reconstructing the original verandah - a very welcome improvement.

Conservation News: The Good and the Bad

It is encouraging to report that the heritage conservation movement has gained considerable momentum in the City of Hamilton over the past year, with the commencement of several major rehabilitation projects in the downtown core. The restoration of the High Level Bridge on York Boulevard is nearing completion (full report in the most recent Hamilton-Niagara Branch newsletter) and three other projects are well underway.

The Custom House

After suffering from years of neglect and abuse, Hamilton's oldest government building, the 1860 Custom House on Stuart Street, is finally getting the care and the attention it deserves. Purchased in 1987 by Don Warrener, this beautifully proportioned and finely detailed Renaissance Revival building is being restored

and renovated for use as a College of Martial Arts, the first of its kind outside Japan. The total cost of restoring and renovating the Custom House is now projected to be \$1.5 million. The restoration of the original architectural features and conservation of the stone masonry has been made possible by generous grants from the Provincial Government (so far totalling \$403,000), with additional funding provided by the City of Hamilton (a \$50,000 low-interest loan from the Community Heritage Fund plus a \$5000 grant) and the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (\$40,000 loan from its heritage fund). The exterior and portions of the interior are being carefully restored under the close supervision of the project architect, Alan Seymour, with the collaboration of staff from the Hamilton LACAC and the City's Building Department. To date, all of the original sash windows have been repaired or restored, the stone masonry has been cleaned and repointed and work on the interior is well underway. The restoration and interior decoration of the ground floor will be finished by Christmas



Nash House at 2774 King Street East, Hamilton.
Demolished July 1987. Photo by Ann Gillespie

and if all goes according to schedule, the building will be ready for occupancy by the fall of 1989.

Other Preservation Projects

The former Hamilton Public Library on Main Street West beside City Hall, now owned by the Province of Ontario, is being rehabilitated for use by the Unified Family Court. A large rear addition, which echoes the neo-Classical design of the original Carnegie library, built in 1913, has already been built and interior renovations should be completed by the end of the year. The Pigott Building, Hamilton's first skyscraper built in 1929, and the adjacent Sun Life Building, erected in 1905-06 at the corner of James and Main are being converted to condominium units with commercial and office space on the lower floors. Progress has been hindered by poor sales and the buildings have changed ownership since the renovations began in 1987. The new owner's marketing scheme is to sell the units to investors who would then rent them as apartments.

Mention should also be made of the conservation work being undertaken by several of the City's most important churches: Christ Church Cathedral, MacNab Street Presbyterian Church and St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (all designated under the Ontario Heritage Act). The first two have already received substantial funding from the Province for stone masonry

conservation work and slate roofing respectively. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church has made application for funding and is planning a fundraising campaign to save its spire. The estimated cost of restoring the 180-foot stone spire, which experts have declared to be in danger of collapse, and other necessary repair work is now projected to be a staggering \$1.8 million.

While the number of important restora-

tion and rehabilitation projects going on in the Hamilton area at the present time reflects a more positive attitude on the part of politicians, developers and the general public towards heritage conservation, we still have a long way to go. Now the bad news.

Our rural heritage is threatened more than ever by the suburban blight which continues to consume our farmland at an alarming rate, destroying in its path farmhouses, barns, orchards and other heritage features. One recent victim was a late Victorian farmhouse on King Street East, just west of Stoney Creek: one of two nearby houses in the ownership of the Nash family to be torn down within the last year. Both were substantial and attractive brick houses built by descendants of Samuel Nash, a United Empire Loyalist who settled in Saltfleet Township in the early 19th century. The house at 2825 King Street East was torn down one night in mid-June, putting an unexpectedly swift end to the City's efforts to preserve it. The one at 2774 King Street East, on the other hand, was not lost without a long battle. Designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in January 1987, the vacant house continued to be brutally attacked by vandals and by early summer was such an eyesore that City Council, at its June meeting, denied LACAC's recommenda-



The Custom House, 51 Stuart Street, Hamilton.
Photo by Ann Gillespie

tion to impose the 180-day delay of demolition provided for under the Act. The house was hastily demolished, the sign erected in its place - "Nash Orchard Heights North" - a telling and bitter reminder of what has been lost.

In the downtown core, four landmark buildings have been earmarked as "doomed" or "endangered": the Eaton's and Zeller's stores on James Street North, the Thistle Club on Robinson Street and St. Mark's Anglican Church at the corner of Hunter and Bay Streets, all of which have been targeted as sites for development.

The Eaton's Building

The fate of the 1916-20 terracotta-clad Eaton's building was sealed last year when the City approved Cadillac Fairview's plans to build a new Eaton's store on York Boulevard and a two-storey mall on the site of the present Eaton's store to be demolished in 1989. The one consolation is that the old City Hall clock may reappear near its original site. A suggestion by the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society to incorporate the clock into the proposed new development resulted in modifications to the design of the Eaton's Centre façade to include a clock tower at the York Boulevard corner.

The Zeller's Building

Doomed also is the Zeller's building across the street at the corner of King William. A familiar landmark to downtown shoppers for over fifty years, the Zeller's store closed in September. Built in 1929 for Schulte-United Ltd., the American-owned five-and-dime store, the building was taken over in 1932 by Zeller's Ltd. (a Canadian chain department store established by Walter P. Zeller in 1931). The original building, designated by the well-known Hamilton architect, William Walsh, is still intact above the remodelled Zeller's entrance. The striking design of the upper storey façade, with its ornamental brick work, corner window and Gothic-inspired stone piers, makes a valuable contribution to the historic James North and King William streetscapes.

The current owner, ISIS Group Canada Inc., applied for a demolition permit both for Zeller's and the adjacent building (formerly the Grafton's store) last October, with the stated intention of redeveloping the site. No definite plans were announced

at the time: there was talk of a mixed retail/condominium development but more recently it has been rumoured that a bank tower may be built on the site. LACAC representatives and staff in the Planning Department met last November with ISIS director, Arthur Boiago, to discuss alternatives to demolition. It was pointed out that a new taller building stepped back from these façades would achieve a more intensive use of the site while retaining the historic character of the streetscape. While preservation of the façades alone is hardly an ideal situation, in this case it would be a satisfactory alternative to complete demolition due to the exceptional quality of the brick and stonework and the absence of any original or distinctive design features on the interior.

When attempts on the part of LACAC and the Planning Department to negotiate the retention of at least the façades proved to be unfruitful, LACAC had only one recourse left, namely, to recommend to Council that the building, or at least the street fronts of the original building designed by Walsh, be designated. Committee members felt strongly that LACAC's mandate should be carried out even though the recommendation probably would not gain the support of the City's Planning and Development Committee. The local branch of the ACO rallied to the cause with a plea to the Committee to support LACAC's recommendation, but to no avail. It was turned down by Council in May. As a result, no further official action can be taken by the City to prevent the owner from obtaining his demolition permit as the services have been turned off in the now vacant building. We can only wait and pray for a miracle.

Niagara Developments

Meanwhile at the tip of the Branch area conservation concerns have been boiling away merrily. The Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy has been working for several months on a semi-official basis having public meetings to discuss items of concern particularly in relation to the proper management of that historic resource, the old town of Niagara area. These meetings, including one to discuss developments promoting road closing and zoning changes in the dock area being fought by the group, Save Our Dock Area, prompted the chairman to offer the



Logo of The Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy designed by artist Campbell Scott.

Conservancy to be the whisky to their SODA. The organization is now set up formally with a board of directors and an executive, with Peter John Stokes as President, Richard Davis as Vice-President, Peggi Clarkson as Treasurer, Judith MacLachlan as Secretary and Caroline Rigby in charge of membership. Its address is Box 1582, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, L0S 1J0. An attractive logo was designed by artist Campbell Scott (the owner and builder of that fascinating wooden house at the corner of Byron and Wellington Streets in the old town.).

Recently a public meeting to get together with and question municipal candidates was held which proved lively with the many interested people attending. The Conservancy also noted those candidates most responsive to the concerns of preservation, controlled development and management of tourism to safeguard the old town and other historic areas of the community for future generations. A new Lord Mayor, Stan Ignatczyk, previously an alderman, and five of the aldermen, including Gerry Wooll, a former Lord Mayor of the old Town of Niagara, likely to support the Conservancy's causes in the ensuing term, were elected: the tide, at last, may have turned. Needless to say the term 'conservancy', as with the ACO, has particular pertinence here. Perhaps we can look forward to some affiliation with that group.

Recently an excellent publication *The Niagara Conservation Strategy* (for further information see Publications of Interest, this issue), outlines, among many concerns, the plight of our fragile fruitlands, ever shrinking in area within that strictly limited region of a special micro-climate permitting

us to grow tender fruit, particularly peaches beyond compare. No doubt you have driven down to Niagara recently, perhaps becoming blasé to the explosion of Mississauga, Oakville and Burlington on your way to Hamilton. But despite the importance of the limited area beyond, Stoney Creek (formerly Saltfleet Township) has been sacrificed to development and the exit to Fruitland has become a misomer. Grimsby, where the shoreline plateau is at

its narrowest, is fast following suit. When the John Deere "plant" (in quotes for diabolical emphasis) was being built a seasonal fruit market, with the help of the provincial government, was being erected within a mile of it: just if not juicy deserts, for industrial infilling has since continued and a vast area has been sterilized from fruit-growing by a mast field beaming entertainment if not intelligence to the Toronto shore and beyond. Another such

mast network has done likewise recently further on near Beamsville. St. Catharines grows inexorably.

It seems our provincial government takes conservation of our essential and non-renewable resources far too lightly in all fields. We believe that in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake there may well be a review of this trend - and the provincial government better be behind it his time.

HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE

Even though the Board geared down for the summer season, Heritage Cambridge managed to attract the attention of the community with its preservation promoting activities. Considered by some to be our most successful activities were the Sunday afternoon walking tours which began at the Morris Lutz house. Then our attendance began to soar when the B.I.A. kindly supplied a mobile sign announcing the weekly event. Alison Jackson and Lynda Schneider, the organizers, declared this program worth repeating next year and recommended that extra guides from outside the Board be invited to conduct tours. They also suggested that the itinerary be changed from week to week, particularly given that the Old Galt Historic Walking Tour guide book invites several possibilities with its fifty-two buildings featured.

Readers of the last issue of Acorn will recall learning about the frieze paintings done by Jack Baird in the McDougall Cottage. This dwelling, the pilot project of Heritage Cambridge's revolving Community Heritage Fund, certainly attracted keen interest from the residents of Cambridge - and from afield - when on June 16, 1988, a press conference announcing the sale of 89 Grand Avenue South was held (see details below). Ads were placed in our three local papers, as well as in the Globe and Mail, announcing an open house date, and needless to say, on this warm Sunday afternoon, hundreds of curious heritage buffs and several prospective purchasers came out to see our "diamond in the rough." The result of this event was that we sold the cottage with a restoration agreement in place - and best

of all, to a young man whom we believe to be an ideal buyer.

The following is a transcript of the excellent speech that architect and Board-member, Gerry Musselman, delivered at our most recent General Meeting of Heritage Cambridge, held on November 2, 1988. This inspiring speech was so well received that we asked Gerry if we might include it in this issue of Acorn. In it, Gerry talks about the history of the preservation movement in Cambridge, the restoration program of the McDougall Cottage, and finally the new direction we are heading in as a result of what he has termed, 'direct initiative'. Gerry has called this text, "The McDougall Cottage and The Community Heritage Fund - In Context."

The McDougall Cottage and the Community Heritage Fund — in Context

I believe that the *Community Heritage Fund* may be seen as the third phase in the unfolding story of Heritage Cambridge.

Our first phase might correctly be characterized as *reactive*. Very understandably, a community-oriented movement such as ours would first be galvanized into action in response to a threat to those heritage structures seen by perceptive residents as valuable and irreplaceable. And so Pat Rosebrugh and her fellow crusaders took on our old nemesis, the Board of Education, to try to save Galt's historic Central School. That battle was lost, but for the first time, the cause had been articulated, and found some considerable support from the community. Subsequently we also lost some fine industrial buildings along the river and a charming Main

Street structure demolished by Canada Trust. But our fortunes changed with our OMB opposition to the ill-conceived Baycrest development and our opposition to the demolition of the Preston Central School, significantly bolstered by our mayor, some members of Council and dozens from the community, resulted in a resounding triumph!

Surely those efforts had an impact on the fate of the Dickson School, the Mill we are now in, the less successful Patterns Works, the very successful Little Theatre, right up to the preservation of the purple pool hall! One would wish that they would have influenced that same Board of Education in its dealing with Kitchener's Victoria School a decade later.

The second phase of Heritage Cambridge might be seen as its *educational and motivational phase*. These phases are not sequential or perhaps even distinct. But what else could one call our Project 75, with its walking and driving tours, its development of inventories of worthy buildings and its student slide presentations? We worked along with city staff. Our inventories received quasi-official status in the heritage section of our Official Plan. We participated in the development of height control guidelines.

Provincial legislation, the formation of LACAC, the Heritage Canada Downtown project — all reinforced the awareness and the increasing sophistication of the public. Less and less were we seen as fringe radicals, bent on resisting development and uncritically preserving everything that's old. Suddenly we were mainstream — with all the scariness that that implies!



Dr. Anthony Adamson

one of our original Charter Members, writes this appeal

Designations, listings, LACACS, Conservation Districts, Heritage Easements, Review Boards, Special air credits for historic buildings, the Ontario Heritage Act, Heritage Canada, Awards, the Ontario Heritage Foundation etc.

WHO STARTED ALL THIS?

You know the answer. We did! Fifty odd years ago.

THE ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO

Let us be proud of our historic achievement, but don't let us stop.

We are non-government, non profit citizenry well rooted in every area of Ontario, and there is lots left to do in support of rational conservation.

But we need resources, we need the help of members. We need money.

We have never made a direct membership appeal for our own operational costs, our office, our magazine, our phone, our secretary, the assistance we give to branches, and the assistance needed where there are no branches.

If every member gave \$1.00 for each decade of our work

We could raise \$7,200.00

If every member gave 25 cents for every year we have been supporting and building up the whole conservation process

We could raise \$18,000.00

If every member gave a whole dollar for each of our 50 odd years

We could raise \$72,000.00

And if there were generous people who gave say, one hundred dollars, they might offset the number of people who just don't read letters like this one but please don't YOU be one of those people who neglects or forgets.

You get an income tax deduction

Please return to:

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of Ontario Inc.**
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We hope
you haven't forgotten us

Thank You

I see our *third* phase now as one of taking *direct* initiative. The arresting of ill-considered development and our blocking the demolition of irreplaceable heritage structures will *always* be primary responsibilities for sensitive and vigilant citizens. So also will the task of education, persuasion and motivation, in an effort to ensure an alert civic staff, and elected officials who understand the issues of our built environment as they develop public policy; and at least a constant base of minority support we can count on in the community, as day-by-day value judgements on architectural and heritage issues must be made.

But as we come of age (and perhaps as I grow old and lose patience), it seems to me that we must take the initiative quite directly, in doing what must be done.

A fine example of this was our response a few years ago to the progressive loss of our old cast iron light standards. In such a situation, one has a number of options:

One could protest to the PUC that the colour corrected (or uncorrected) high pressure sodium lights, even with impressive engineering characteristics of consistent light distribution, and even with their phony, olde lanterne design, are poor substitutes for the cast iron and glass globes of *authentic local antiquity*. But see how far you get with electrical engineers with *those* protestations.

Or, one could embark on a program of education to persuade residents that it's *their* responsibility and in *their* interests to communicate superior values to their political representatives and insist on sophisticated decision-making at Council.

But surely it's best simply to find a foundry, have an authentic cast designed and made, and then saying to civic government, "There you go! That's your source. Now when a cast iron standard is broken, simply order another one made, and put it up!" It is the same option for *direct initiative* that I find attractive in the Community Heritage Fund.

But in this *new* phase, we have for the first time, the option of doing more than protesting, objecting or imploring. When we see a building that should be saved, we can — buy it! Limited only by the size of our fund, the astuteness of our approach — and the amount of our nerve, we can then restore it and re-sell it, designated, and with easements protecting it in perpetuity. This, now possible through the Community Heritage Fund.

But with 89 Grand Avenue South, we have gone one step further! In this, our first endeavour, we have asked ourselves whether the interests of our preservation objectives are best served if, as was first anticipated, we restore the structure and then we re-sell the building in its finished state. Our answer this time, for reasons both of security and efficiency, was "No".

Undertaking the work ourselves of course is *always* an option. But the possibility of mis-reading the market as to use; the not-unlikely prospect of construction over-runs; the chance that someone else might be able to restore the building more economically than we; the awesome amount of work that a properly administered restoration project requires; and the chance that after *all* our efforts, our re-sale might not cover our investment — led us to the conclusion that a *conditional re-sale before restoration could achieve all our objectives and minimize our risks*.

And as an added bonus, we can immediately recover our money, and do the whole thing over again!

So far, the first project in our revolving fund promises to be everything we had hoped it would be.

The McDougal Cottage is a modest project — we did not bite off more than we could chew. Yet it is a significant building — an exquisite, historic stone cottage with an address that gives it a presence and identity that could scarcely be better.

And with its wall and ceiling paintings now to be restored, we have the icing on our cake!

Tim Drennan, our purchaser who will be introduced later, is in our opinion, a *dream* of a buyer! Sharing values with our own, combining both experience and youthful enthusiasm, Tim will achieve our dream — and his — simultaneously.

He has entered into agreement with us to restore, repoint and clean the stone; replace the leaking asphalt shingles with a sound cedar shingle roof; install flashings and gutters of copper; repair the double hung windows and re-glaze where necessary, with period glass; and remove paint and re-finish exterior wood with colours approved by Heritage Cambridge.

Tim will re-build or restore the front and rear porch. He'll replace column bases as required and re-build deteriorated chimneys. He will protect the interior wall and ceiling paintings and allow Heritage Cambridge to undertake their restoration. He will retain a landscape designer qualified in historic landscaping and carry out that design for the site.

At the same time, Heritage Cambridge will be identified with the project through a temporary sign during construction and a small permanent plaque on completion. Also on completion, Heritage Cambridge may conduct an open house at its discretion.

We feel that ours is a joint effort, a mutual endeavour with Tim. We want to work along with him, suggest sources, buoy up his spirits, and keep out of his way! He has moved into his historic cottage now. The vandalism will cease; and before our very eyes, *Galt's riverfront history will take on new life*.

This is the new phase of Heritage Heritage, a *third* arrow for our quiver! Its potential for our community is virtually limitless. And with sound, responsible direction and decision-making, it will fulfil the promise of its founders.

Gerry Musselman
2 November 1988

BRANT COUNTY

Brant County Branch members and friends of the Architectural Conservancy had a pleasant meeting this Fall at the Carriage House, Thorpe Funeral Home, 99 West Street. After a brief business meeting chaired by Marion Sheridan, incoming President, a slide show was presented and refreshments served. Card boxes of hasti-notes suitable for Christmas giving were displayed. There are now seven series available, Demolished gems, Dufferin, Core, Core Commercial, Churches, Mount Pleasant, Brant Ave. These may be purchased by ordering from the Conservancy Office, 519-756-1799.

The Core Area Slide Show featured photographs by Violet Fair, Agnes Whitaker and Audrey Scott. Mrs. Scott spoke about the origins of Brantford's Core, and demonstrated changes over the last ten years. Most of the modern buildings, she said, are completely incompatible with the style of the older structures and street-scapes. Incompatible restorations, painted walls, and other street furniture contributing to the downtown's blight were also studied. Mrs. Scott depicted the fine older structures in process of restoration and those that have been demolished. Slides of the actual demolitions were particularly heartbreaking. Lost within the time period were the Kerby hotel, 5-21 George St., the Wine Gallery, the Keachie and Quinlan's buildings, the former Turner's home on Nelson, 16 Wellington, 40 Queen, town-houses on Queen, and several other structures which can never be replaced in history and design.

Mention was made of the part the Conservancy played in saving King at Colborne from being destroyed for the bus terminal, and in the current restoration of the Commerical Buildings at George and Dalhousie. The future of the Core Area is still uncertain, said Mrs. Scott, because of the difficulty of persuading the people of Brantford to recognize their exceptional heritage.

The fight to save the Commercial Buildings in Brantford began a year ago this Fall. The heritage groups were resigned to its loss many times, but wonder of wonders the building still stands and restorations are taking place. Skip Young, the owner must have been swayed by many considera-

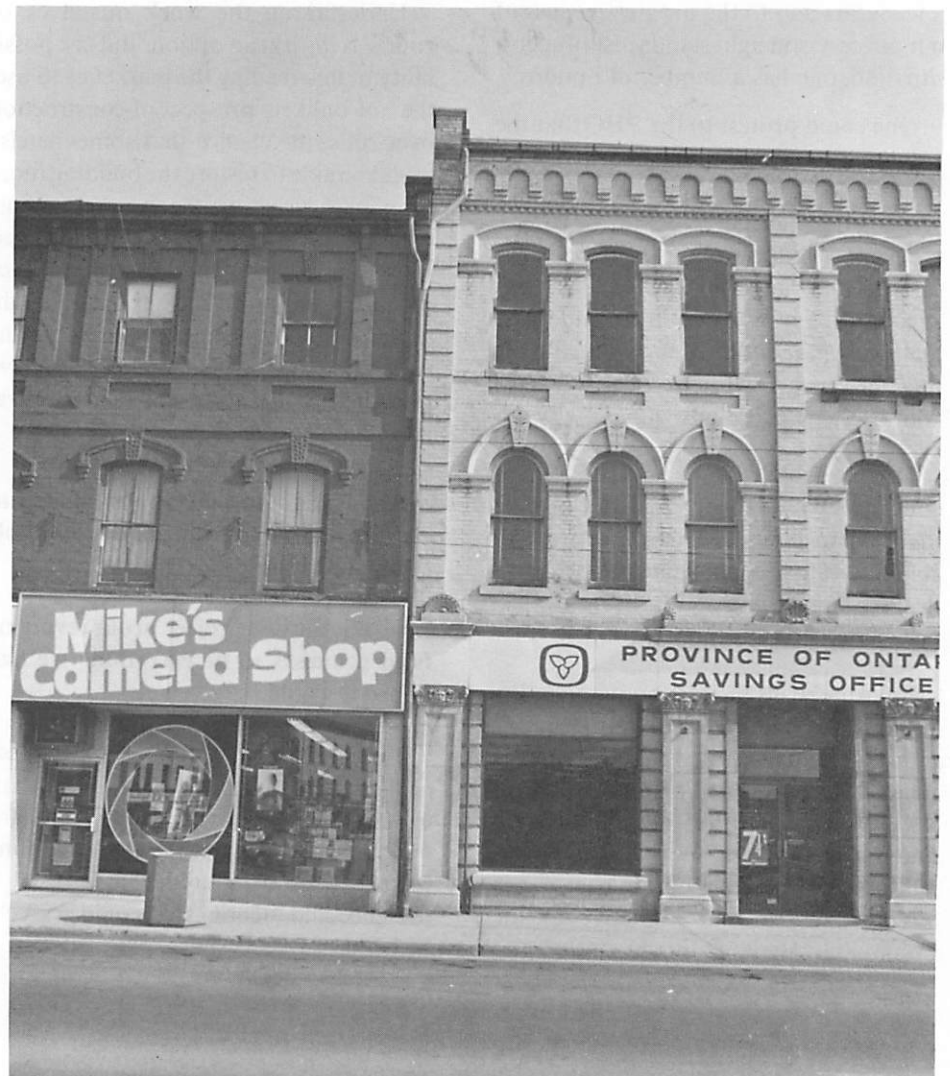
tions, while Alistair Maclaine, the architect, has been involved in several projects in Brantford, many of them blocked by City Council.

To begin with, Mr. Young was adamant about tearing the building down and replacing it with a modern structure. But for some reason the plight of this building elicited a lot of public response. Articles and letters in the paper mounted to about twenty over the time period of a few months. The Local Branch collected about eighteen documents supporting the retention of the building. Many of these were presented at Council and other meetings. They included an 1978 Advisory Board report, and two reports by Karel Kippers from the current Advisory Board, one of them technical in nature, pointing out the economic advantages of restoration over

new construction.

A TV presentation was made in regard to the Commercial Buildings over CHCH Hamilton. The C.B.C., Toronto's Star and Globe and Mail also picked up the story, with its emphasis on the role of John Turner, the architect, and the number of buildings demolished which had constituted the life work of this fine architect.

The local branch likes to think that its presentations and research on the Commercial Buildings, as here and otherwise presented, had much to do with the building's preservation. Another important factor was the stand of the Heritage Committee (LACAC), previously silent on most occasions, (by reason of an unsympathetic City Council), when the Conservancy Branch lobbied for a building's preservation.



**Commercial Buildings, 1881,
138 Dalhousie Street:**

An edited version of a 21 November 1987 presentation to Brantford's City Council.

The design of the Commercial Buildings, 138 Dalhousie Street and 40-48 George Street is an interesting mix of Italianate and other late Victorian styles. The main bulk of the structure shows a low roof, the eaves a minimal cornice, a corbelled frieze below the cornice, and second storey windows are with semi-circular heads, the centre keystones with incised decoration and hood-moulds in a slightly pointed form above, joined to form a string course or horizontal band encircling the building. All these details are of brick or stone, the material of the building's construction in 1881.

The top storey of the building exhibits segmentally-headed windows with similar hood moulds over the windows, joined to form a string course. Here the sills also form a continuous band course. This arrangement of windows on a second and third storey was often repeated in Brantford's early buildings, and at one time assured a harmonious, regularized and integrated style sequence to the downtown, even where the sequence, as in the case of the Keachie and Hamilton Buildings (now demolished) at the corner of Market and Colborne, was interrupted by an alternate style.

Tall chimneys on the George Street side complete that roofline. The six chimneys have been rebuilt, with a broader base supporting a narrower shaft. There is a

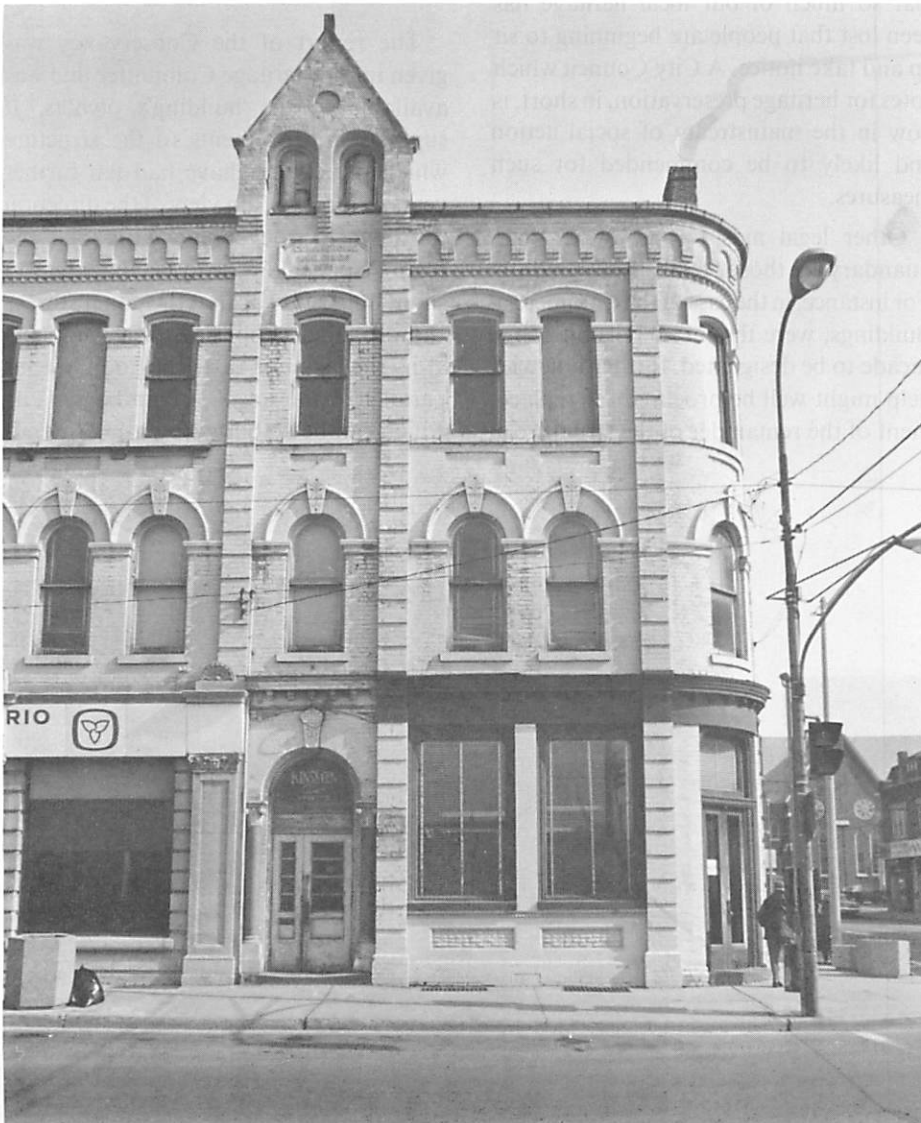
black air vent toward Darling Street behind, and a fire wall dividing the section on George Street, built a few years later, from the original building.

This marked horizontality is interrupted by the vertical tower-like feature which frames the entrance to the upper floors, emphasized by rusticated piers on both sides and crowned by a gable. Here there is a certain eclecticism, the detail reminiscent of a castle, the twin round-headed windows set in deep recesses, the gable decorated with a roundel in brick; all adding a certain charm and variety. Above the third floor is the datestone denoting the structure as "Commercial Buildings".

All these features are placed harmoniously. The bold frieze resembles an arcaded machicolation. Below a brick string course with dogtoothing serves also to cap the brick pilasters dividing the façades. These pilasters are rusticated, providing a vertical emphasis to balance the horizontal elements of the design and adding a stature to the building.

There are three windows, closely spaced, to the two sections west of the entrance to the upstairs on the Dalhousie front, two in the bay to the east. The rounded corner serves to bring the design features smoothly from one street to the other without a break for the eye, and two windows to each bay occur along the George Street side. Both corner and entrance bays have single windows, however. Note also the recessed brick panels between the storeys. An interesting comparison of some of the design features can be found in the Court-house by the same architect, John Turner.

In order to resolve the problem of assisting owners with re-cycling, many municipalities are willing to cancel work-orders which might no longer be relevant to work proposed or at least defer them until an owner can secure moneys for restoration. Such moneys are available locally through the Architectural Conservancy's Heritage Fund, which now totals roughly \$150,000.00 and has given low-interest loans up to \$40,000. There are



The Commercial Buildings, 1881, Dalhousie Street at George, Brantford. John Turner, Architect.

Photo by John W.S. Jackowetz

provincial sources through the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Ministry of Culture and Communications in addition to its current Preserving Ontario's Architecture program dealing with annual grants to owners who seek help with designated buildings. Little if anything is available from federal sources except where buildings or preservation works qualify for special incentives, but revisions to tax legislation may provide some relief to favour the preservation of old buildings rather than encouraging their demolition.

Another building in the city, Wynarden or Yates Castle, received a large part of its funding, and even funding for landscaping as we understand it, from the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Cities elsewhere have also helped owners with tax relief and other benefits in order that older buildings of significance could be preserved without undue burden to the owners, but this is not a typical Canadian response. In some cases height and parking requirements have been exchanged with those of another structure, so that impossible conditions need not be met, or air rights sold to secure the future of an older building. Studies can be made by city staff as to how such arrangements are made.

Such studies cannot be over-emphasized at this point, in view of the fact that the City of Brantford, like other communities, is bound by its own laws, which can perhaps be self-defeating in some instances where heritage preservation is concerned.

We as a Conservancy sincerely urge City Council to investigate changes in policy which will enable owners to undertake essential conservation, when heritage structures need repair. The danger of having work orders imposed could well explain the reluctance of downtown merchants and owners to make repairs and improvements for fear of stirring up a hornet's nest of other deficiencies: this in turn creates a poor image for the whole city. There are grants available for entire Main Street and downtowns, for example, under the Main Street Program which the B.I.A. for one body, has investigated in the past.

As John Canning of the Heritage Committee has pointed out, the climate for heritage preservation is now improving. The stand of the Expositor Editor and the number of letters to the editor indicate that so much of our local heritage has been lost that people are beginning to sit up and take notice. A City Council which votes for heritage preservation, in short, is now in the mainstream of social action and likely to be commended for such measures.

Other legal aids for an owner in a quandary are those of partial designation. For instance, in the case of the Commercial Buildings, were the intact portion of the façade to be designated, further financial help might well be procured for replacement of the remainder of the structure in

the same or compatible style, the renovation of the interior where desirable, involving virtually gutting with renewal of all interior 'works' such as plumbing and wiring, and all necessary structural supports. Alderman Ray Simpson, we understand, would go along with such an idea, and certainly the Conservancy and probably the Heritage Committee would approve of such a compromise.

It should be noted that in this instance, the Heritage Committee has recommended designation to Council. Much of its research was done by Paul Dilse, who has also made a study of the architect, John Turner. Research and an Advisory Board Report by the Architectural Conservancy were done in February of 1978, when the Homestead proposal for the core area was under consideration.

The report of the Conservancy was given to the Heritage Committee and was available to the building's owners. It suggests improvements to the structure which the owners have had ten further years to look into, in view of the direction the downtown development took. I quote from Peter Stokes's report at that time. "A slight bulge outwards at the upper storeys shows on the Dalhousie Street front indicating the lack of a tie to the floor systems parallel to the joists, a common failing which can be stabilized by using tie rods



Former hotel at Colborne Street and Brant Avenue, demolished 1987 for redevelopment.



44 Colborne Street, seen in the background of the previous photograph, demolished 1988.

Photo by Dennis Nason.

and plates."

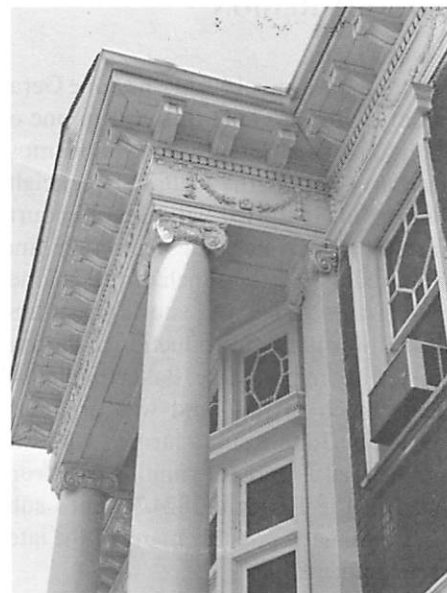
In regard to the setting of the Commercial Buildings, forming as it does a complementary unit with the Holstein-Friesian building on the north-east corner, Mr. Stokes speaks highly of the core combination. He also speaks warmly of the potential of the Commercial Hotel and the rest of the block on Dalhousie bordering the Market Square. A further quote from his report might not be amiss. "The Commercial Hotel, with its immediate neighbour, the Commercial Buildings, form a significant part of the downtown streetscape of Brantford's core. They are representative of the city's older business centre. With careful attention to shop-front design and signs and the repair and cleaning of the upper storeys, these structures could be a handsome complement to any (downtown development) scheme". Mr. Stokes then goes on to indicate further structural improvements. One of his conclusions is still apt: "The City of Brantford is perhaps an example of slow central area decay needing dynamic example and civic leadership to reverse a typically depressing trend. The possibility lies there (for the use of heritage structures): it requires considerable energy, effort and money, even risk, not to mention imagination and enthusiasm to create a symbol that displays faith in the future of Brantford itself. This in turn is likely to stimulate stability elsewhere, probably to encourage industry and residential development and *moderate* urban growth, for an attractive downtown area of interest and activity, a lively centre to the city, is the focus of community spirit that spells survival if not success (and in which) preservation is an important aspect of the process."

Again the Conservancy urges the Council to formulate an easement policy for older structures, lest, in a very short space of time, the city finds itself bereft of most of its older buildings and the larger portion of its charm. Especially do we advocate the consideration of designation of buildings as the Ontario Heritage Act encourages, rather than in accordance only with the owners' consent.

The local branch of the Conservancy has given a silver rating to the Commercial Buildings. This means that the building's style, proportions, exterior details and place in the streetscape place it in the top category, next to actual landmarks such as the Courthouse. Structural condition is inadequate, but is minimized in an evaluation with so much evidence to support cost analyses which suggest re-cycling and renovation is at least on a par economically with new construction. Also of importance to the evaluators was the historical record of the building, with its use as a library (1888), offices for supportive organizations, its nationally-known architect, its locally famous builder, William Watt, and its ownership by Bernard Heyd, a significant railroad magnate who ventured into the grocery business and whose son distinguished himself in civic life.

Ontario Heritage Policy Review

The Conservancy has also contributed to the current overview of the Ontario Heritage Policy Review, and has there expressed some of the concerns mentioned here, including the need for easements for owners: the need for civic departments such as heritage planning and building departments to work together, and for provincial funding bodies to pull together, rather than in disparate directions, when funding civic schemes, for example the B.I.A. restoration scheme in Brantford, which took a different tack to that of projects requiring new construction. The discussion paper issued in April, 1987, calls for "new coordinating mechanisms", the promotion of the understanding that "Conservation must be understood to be fundamental to the social and economic life of the community" (note our previous quotation from Stokes) and asking for a "change in the level of awareness on the part of both public officials and citizens generally, regarding the value of heritage resources and their responsibility to future generations."



Colonial Revival detail of the Verity House, 73 Charlotte Street, Brantford. Demolished to make way for an apartment building, yet to appear.

NORTH WATERLOO REGION

The Branch Editor reports little activity of general interest to Conservancy members for this issue, noting that most items were brought up to date in Acorn XIII - 2. However there is some hope for a more satisfactory resolution of the contentious subject of the preservation of the old Waterloo County Jail and Governor's House described under *Speaking of Jails* ... on pages 15 and 16 of the last issue.

We await news on this and other subjects in our next issue.

LONDON REGION

House Tour

Our main annual event, the June Geranium Walk, was held this year in one of London's most interesting — and most insecure — areas, the Talbot Street neighbourhood. It started with the old courthouse, part of which dates from 1826, and followed the north branch of the Thames past a wide variety of historic structures. In his informative introduction to the tour guide, organizer Mike Baker explained that "much of this land was originally owned by John Kent, a farmer, who was granted a 100 acre lot running east from Wharnclyffe Road in 1824." Kent's subdivisions made possibly many of the later developments.



Eldon House, 1834 with later additions, the south front and garden from Ridout Street.

Photo by Mike Baker

Several of the young settlement's more prosperous citizens followed the example of John Harris, Treasurer of the London District from 1821 to 1850, by building their homes on the bluff overlooking the river. Harris's Georgian "Eldon House," built in 1834, and the Gothic house at 639 Talbot (now the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority House), built in the late 1860s, represented these riverside estates on the tour. The very substantial house at 537 Talbot, built for dry goods merchant Robert Murray during the 1850s, is evidence that the riverside lots were not the only ones considered worthy for a gentleman.

Interestingly, the area was becoming an industrial centre at the same time that it attracted some of London's most prestigious houses. A number of foundries were located on Fullarton St., running east from Talbot, as early as the 1840s, and during the 1860s and 1870s two breweries (including the Carling Brewery) and two tanneries were established further north around Ann Street. Since both owners and workers found proximity to the factories convenient, a number of worker's cottages were built in the neighbourhood. Those on the tour were strikingly varied. An unusual hiproofed double cottage on Albert Street probably dates from the early 1860s; a gabled Ontario Cottage at 601 Talbot St. from the 1870s; and a one and one-half storey house at

127 Ann Street, with a charmingly lace-like bargeboard, from the 1880s. Inside, they proved that the last century's workers' cottages could provide chic and imaginative homes for the present.

The side-by-side development of working-class and middle-class homes continued well into the twentieth century. After Victoria Park was established in the 1870s, Kent and Albert Streets, like others in its immediate vicinity, became extremely fashionable. The Talbot Street Baptist Church, designed by George Durand in 1881-2, represented the area's High Vic-

torian architecture, while the gracious Queen Anne house at 98 Central Ave. provided proof of the neighbourhood's desirability in 1905.

Some of London's most interesting residents lived in the Talbot St. area. The Harris family were at the centre of the city's early social and political life, and Amelia Harris's diaries provide a fascinating glimpse of mid-nineteenth century London. Artist James Hamilton managed the Georgian Bank of Upper Canada, built in 1836 on Ridout Street. And the first resident of the house at 172 Central was Oronhyatekha, a Mohawk Indian from the Six-Nation Reserve, who practiced medicine in Canada after training at Toronto and Oxford Universities. He lived in London from 1874 to the late 1880s, gaining recognition as an especially skilled and learned physician.

Oronhyatekha's house is worthy of special notice in that it has some unusual features. From the front, the house might seem to resemble several others built in London during the 1870s. Its symmetrical two-storey façade has three bays, with segmental arches over the windows and door. There are brick quoins at the corners of the main block and also at the corners of the projecting frontispiece. Inside, however, one discovers the house to have a character very much its own. It is only one room deep, with a stairway running along the back wall. The three rooms of the centre block (the hall and one room to each side) are generous in size, but their ornamental trimmings, from the bulbous egg-and-dart mouldings of the cornice to the 11-foot high doors, still seem somewhat Brobdingnagian. The building's construction, too, seems apt for a much more massive structure. The stone foundation of the house is three feet thick. The beams supporting the stairwell measure 6" X 6". When the present owner, Mr. G. Robyn, cut a new door through a bedroom wall, he discovered that even interior partitions were composed of vertical 3" X 12" or 3" X 14" planks of hemlock. And in the attic one can still see the halved tree trunks, complete with bark, that form the underside of the roof. Dr. Stokes has suggested that the relatively sophisticated Italianate building we now see may have incorporated parts of an earlier and cruder structure.



172 Central Avenue, home of Oronhyatekha.
Photo by William Hitchins.

the suggested revisions put forward by the Planning Department, that the city is ready to commit itself more seriously to identifying and protecting the *most* valuable buildings and areas. But the Plan is less committed to preserving the many older buildings and neighbourhoods that are pleasant, though not necessarily among the Top Ten — or fifty. Regulations limiting density and prohibiting office conversions in residential areas are less widely used than we would wish, and the emphasis on downtown growth bodes ill for the commercial core. We are hoping that that proposed hiring of a heritage planner will encourage a more enthusiastic attitude towards protecting what remains of Victorian London.



639 Talbot Street, London. Photo by Mike Baker

Mr. Baker concludes his introduction to the tour on a note of foreboding, fearing that the long period of *gradual* change in the Talbot Street area may be at an end. A new city plan is in the making, and the recently released Draft Official Plan rezones much of the area for high density residential use. As Mr. Baker observes, this designation "may provide the economic stimulus" for destroying the signs of Talbot Street's earlier economic prosperity.

The Draft Official Plan

The London Branch made a submission suggesting several specific changes in the Draft Official Plan, grouped under seven theoretical points:

1. Give heritage issues a greater priority.
2. Let heritage buildings be a guide to downtown development rather than an obstacle.
3. Designate and protect Heritage Conservation Districts.
4. Retain the historic character of annexed villages.
5. Decrease the high density residential designations on lands bordering the river.
6. Use the medium-density residential designation more frequently.
7. Develop mechanisms for protecting significant individual buildings.

On the positive side, there are indications, both in the Draft Plan itself and in



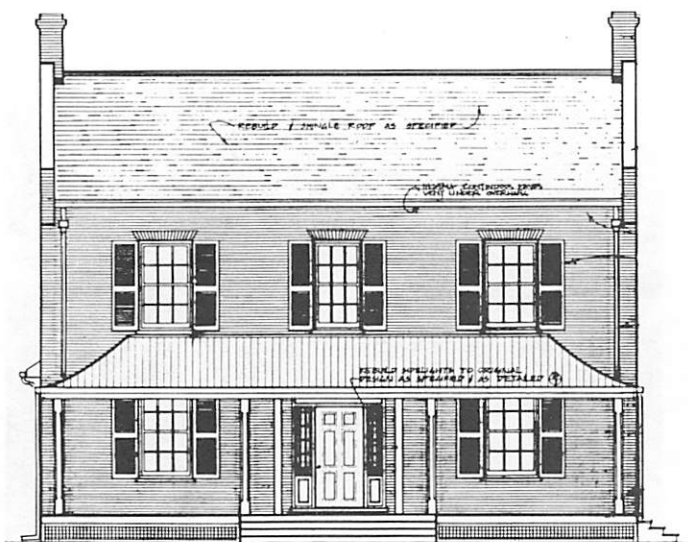
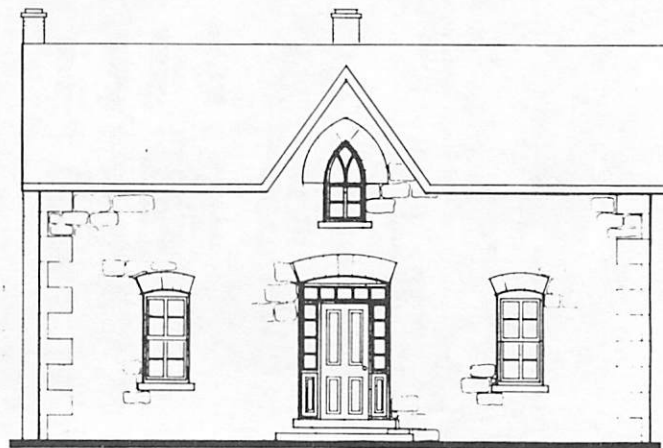
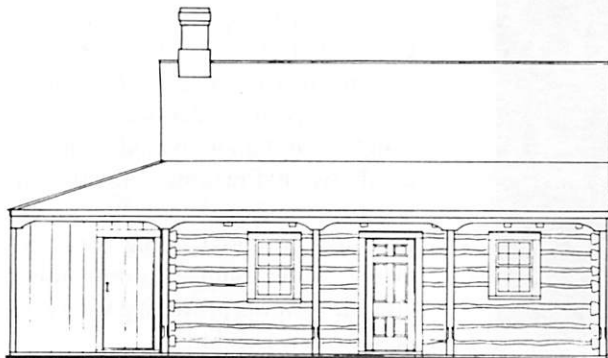
Double cottage on Albert Street
Photo by Mike Baker

The Talbot Block

Our fight to save the Talbot Block suffered another blow when the city council voted, on September 8, to let Cambridge Leaseholds proceed with its proposed development. But the preservationist forces are still hopeful that the buildings can be saved. The Talbot Coalition has filed an appeal for a hearing before the Ontario Municipal Board; meanwhile, we are campaigning for pro-heritage candidates in hopes that the council elected on November 14 will be more sympathetic to our concerns.

HURON COUNTY

Illustrations from *Heritage Architecture in Huron County* a pamphlet with descriptive text, designed by Philippa Borgal.



Top left: Log cabin (1830s - 1870s)

Top right: Stone farmhouse (1860s)

Centre left: Simple Georgian Farm Building (1845), Van Egmond House, Seaforth.

'Gingerbread' trim (1840s - early 1900s), Borgal residence, Blyth.

Bottom: Carnegie Library, Goderich

Sketch of Borgal residence by Nicholas Hill
Architectural drawings: Christopher Borgal,
Architect.

Throughout Huron County, several events have occurred of interest to the ACO, events both positive and negative.

The Bayfield Town Hall is still the object of some controversy. However, despite a study done last year that determined the community is not in favour of preserving the structure, an effort is currently underway to have a second study done to determine what groups in the community might wish to take on the preservation of the building as a project. Proposals from consultants have been received and grant funds are being negotiated at the time of writing.

The Village of Wroxeter unfortunately lost several buildings on its main street recently due to demolition. The ACO was not aware of this until the day before demolition and little could be done to counter this situation. The commercial structures, of mid-nineteenth century vintage, retained many original cornices and shopfronts - due largely to the dormant economy of the village over the last several decades. Luckily, the situation was not completely lost as the Huron County Museum offered to salvage the shopfronts and this was permitted. They will now join shopfronts from other communities in the main gallery at the Museum where they will be preserved for posterity. While it is better to leave our original streetscapes intact in each community, salvage of the cornices and shop components was an improvement over total destruction in this instance.

In speaking of the Museum, the restored windows have just been installed in the 1855 school building and general masonry work and exterior restoration is now complete. In spite of enthusiastic comments by members of the public over the renewed appearance of the building, there have been reports of several members of the County Council saying that the "thing should have been torn down" in spite of its new lease on life. This is an odd attitude given that the building is one of the oldest of its type in Ontario and a key part of the Museum's collection, and points out the need for a great deal more education regarding the importance of architecture as a component of the heritage in this Province. Surely, agricultural lands throughout the northern hemisphere look remarkably similar and it is the architecture nestled in the countryside which defines where we are and from where we have come. To this end, our Branch promoted a drawing contest for grade 7 students in the County. A promotional sheet was prepared and sent to schoolteachers in both the Public and Separate school systems. Entries were received from such diverse communities as Seaforth, Wingham, Goderich and Bayfield. We are currently matting 24 of the entries and contest winners will be announced at the Christmas dinner and annual meeting of the ACO at the Little Inn in Bayfield on December 8. The project was supported by a generous grant of \$1,000 from the Ministry of Culture and Communications.

Also in Bayfield, the Edwards Cash Store, part of which dates to the 1850s and which contains much of its original shelving and fittings, has recently received a corporate sector grant from the Ministry of Culture and Communications for new shingling, and drainage work to protect its foundations. The owners, Meg and Terrance Bullen, have already begun work and hope to complete the project by May of 1989. In Seaforth, the Box Furniture Store, owned by Gary and Barb Bettles, has also received a Corporate Sector Grant for restoration of the original façade which will include an ornate cornice complete with turned spindles. Tom Lemon, the Heritage Canada Mainstreet Coordinator for Seaforth, hopes that the project will provide the incentive for other shops on the street to do the same.

The Town of Wingham will, in the new year, put funds toward the restoration of the Tower on the 1880s Town Hall and do general masonry repair work on the 1895 Post Office (now museum) building. We must sadly note the recent passing of Mr. Ernie Eaton of Wingham, who was certainly one of the most dedicated conservationists in Western Ontario and who provided great assistance during the restoration of the Old Town Hall into the new Wingham Library. Mr. Eaton served as host and guide to one of Peter Stokes's fall tours only a few years ago and will be remembered by many for years to come.

GENERAL CONSERVANCY NEWS

The Advisory Board

To indicate the scope and fascination of some of our enquiries we present the excellent report prepared recently by Advisory Board member William J. Moffet, B. Arch., M.R.A.I.C.

Report on

**Residences on Concession 1 & 2 of
Otonabee Twp., Prepared by**

The Advisory Board

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.

Introduction

The Advisory board was contacted on August 15, 1988 by Ms. Denise Kelsey

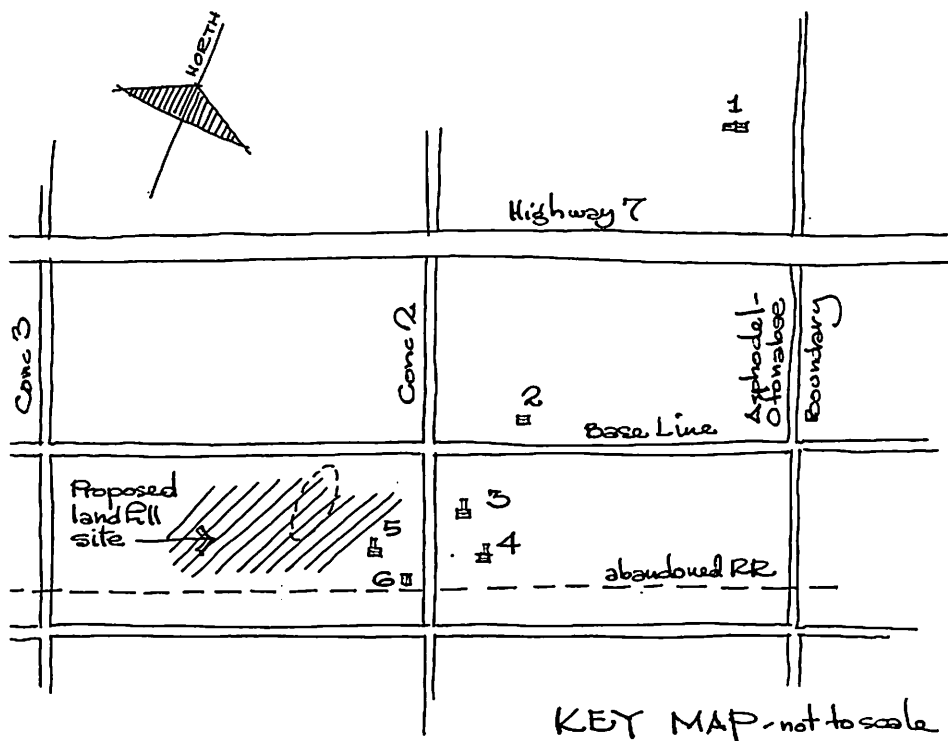
and asked to review the buildings on Concessions 1 & 2, near Hwy. 7, in Otonabee Twp. which would be affected by a proposed Garbage Landfill Development to be located on Lots 20 and 21 and part of Lot 19, between Concession 2 & 3.

On August 21 we visited six residences in the area of the proposed development. Since the report was required for early September, this is of necessity a preliminary report and the detailed research and title searches to create a comprehensive study of the buildings concerned will require

greater time.

Scope of Report

The locations of the buildings inspected are shown in Illustration 1. The approximate relationship to the proposed landfill site is also shown. The buildings were examined inside and out to assess their historical and/or architectural value, the degree of original materials and structure remaining, and the structural soundness of the building fabric. An additional factor which was reviewed is the relation of the design and construction of all but Building 6, which is of a later period.



KEY MAP - not to scale

The buildings are reviewed individually and in relation to each other. This is followed by a summary and assessment.

1. L.K. Mowry Residence

This stone residence is remote from the proposed landfill site but is significant because it is very well preserved and retains its original windows (12 lights over 12 lights), entrance with sidelights and transom, and many of the original 4 panel doors.

The house is a typical 3 bay design with central doorway, of 1½ storeys. The front has a long open porch with fretted brackets of somewhat later design than the basic house. The gable ends are also typical with 2 windows up & down, with larger windows on ground floor. A stone fireplace is located on west end with one fireplace only, in main room of house.

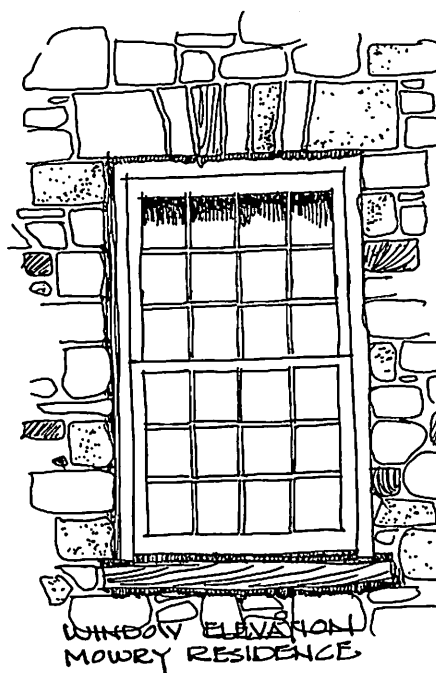
The stonework is exceptional with rubble stone, uncoursed and with unusually large quoins, beautifully fitted. The lintels at all windows are unique to this house in the group examined, with 5 vertical stones flanked by a large horizontal stone which extends beyond window opening. The window sills are of timber.

The shallow pitched roof is completely lacking in neo-Classical details or elaborate mouldings. The soffits follow the slope of

the rafters.

The interior trim is extremely simple and lacking in any moulding except for the door panels.

The main house has a full basement, built of the same rubble stone as the house above. It was originally reached by a "hurricane" door or hatch from the outside. An interior stair to basement has only recently been inserted.



The main entrance faces almost due south, at right angles to the road and hidden from the access drive. Several extensions have been added to the west end using the same stone and lintel details as the main house. The closeness of detail indicates that these were added shortly after the house was built, almost certainly by the same masons.

2. J. Reed Residence

A stone residence of very similar form to the Mowry Residence but on a smaller scale. The proportions, roof pitch, 3 bay 1½ storey configuration are identical.

Despite its more modest size, the stonework is identical to the Mowry Residence, with rubble stonework and massive quoins. The window lintels are similar but simpler with 2/3 vertical stones flanked by large horizontal stones.

Again the house has a full basement, in this case still accessed by a hatch on the exterior.

The entrance is simpler with square transom only - no sidelights. There is no evidence of a front porch.

The original stair is still used although it has been strangely relocated 3' east of its original location.

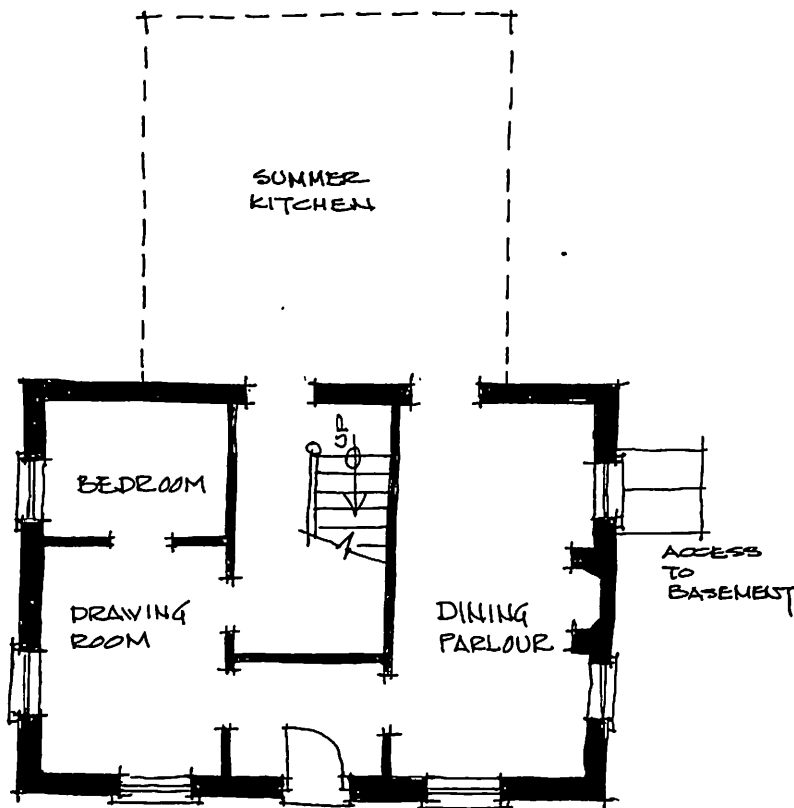
The main elevation faces the east-west road, resulting in the same orientation as all of the other same houses in the group.

3. R. James Residence

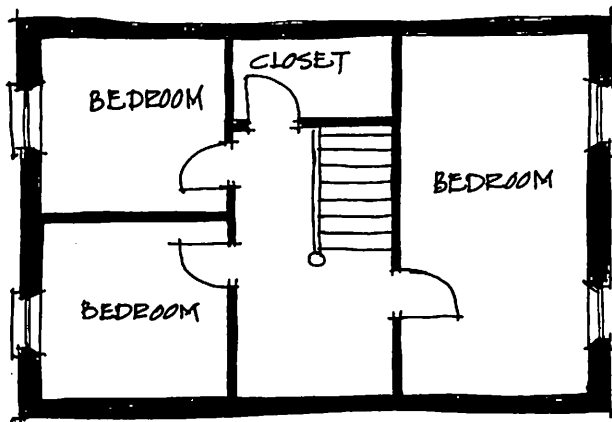
A stone residence identical in form to the preceding examples with 3 bay layout, 1½ storey with wood porch across full width of front. The windows on the ground floor retain the broad proportions and 12 lights over 12 typical to the Mowry Residence. The proportions of the main entrance are also similar to the first example although the single door & sidelights have been replaced with double doors.

The building shape is identical to examples 1 & 2 and the stonework is of similar excellent quality with slightly recessed pointing and massive quoins. The window lintels are a further variation; in this case, red brick in soldier course pattern.

The interior of the house has been extensively altered and the exterior ap-



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

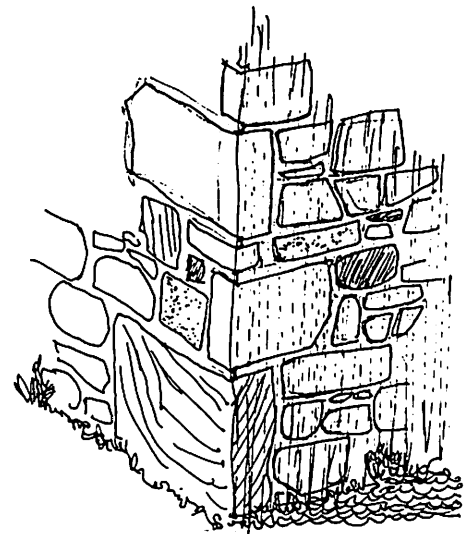
FLOOR PLANS • J. REED RESIDENCE

pearance, although attractive, has been greatly altered by the addition of dormers and "Marley" tile roofing.

There is a full basement of rubble stone

and summer kitchen and extension similar to the earlier examples.

Again the house faces south, at right angles to the Concession road.



TYPICAL QUOIN DETAIL

4. H. Godfrey Residence

This is the most remarkable of the group due to the relative originality of the house which has been unaltered since the early 1900s although it has been kept weathertight. The building form and layout is similar - 3 bays, 1½ storey with large summer kitchen wing. This wing, like the Reed house was almost certainly added soon after the completion of the original house.

This is the only house with coursed stone and this occurs only on the south facing front elevation. The remainder of the stonework is typical of the group. The lintels are squared and rusticated stone, the most elaborate of the group. The extensive frame additions exhibit hand-wrought square nails, indicating a date in the mid 1800s. The chimneys at each end have been replaced with brick at different times, probably in the early 1900s.

The house again faces south, at right angles to the road and is now approached from the north. Early sketches indicated a diagonal road giving access from the west. The barns to the east have a carved date in the boards of the gable end - 1898. In the field to the north, at the highest point of land, there is a grave marker dated 1855 marking the burial place of what is believed to be the first owner, Mr. D. Cameron.

The gable over the main entrance and pointed window are further unusual fea-

tures although the stonework does not appear to have been altered and the sash in the gable window is pre 1870. If these features are original, it is difficult to explain their relationship to the wood nailer strip on the main elevation which indicates that there had been a porch. Perhaps the coursed stone and dormer of the main elevation were an early improvement to the basic house.

5. K. Dallison Residence

Although extensively added to, the original house and kitchen wing are strikingly similar to buildings 1 & 3. The basic proportions and 3 bay, 1½ storey configuration are identical. The extensive verandas and dormers over entrance and kitchen wing are later alterations done in careful sympathy to original house.

The main entrance with sidelights and transom, wide windows with stone lintels and wooden sills, and the placement of windows are all typical to the group.

Again the stonework is identical to the group with uncoursed rubble stone and massive carefully integrated quoins. The turned wood posts and attractive fretwork of the verandahs are almost certainly of a much later date.

The main entrance faces south, at right angles to the road.



K. Dallison Residence

6. L. Kelsey Residence

A good sized brick farmhouse which sits on a rise of land facing the road. Unlike the earlier stone houses the main entrance faces east and squarely toward the nearby road.

The exterior is a mixture of the vernacular 3 bay gabled form with carpenter gothic porch trim and king posts and Italianate "eared" yellow brick lintels.

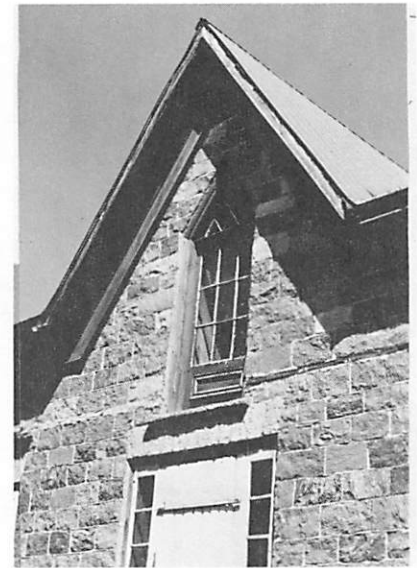
The interior is substantially as-built with original baseboard, panelling and door trim as well as stencil work on walls of kitchen area.

The brick detailing and Italianate elements indicate a date in the 1870s.

Overall Assessment

The five stone houses are undoubtedly related in time and most likely had a common construction crew. There are a number of also identical features:

- all have full rubble stone basement with outside access hatch
- all are 3 bay, centre hall, 1½ storey design with gable form
- all have relatively wide windows, probably with 12 over 12 lights, double-hung sash, and timber sills
- all have main entrance with square transom. Four have narrow sidelights; the smallest has only the transom



Herb Godfrey Residence

- all have the entrance facing almost due south regardless of the relationship to access road
- all have beautiful stonework of exceptional quality with very large quoins. Each has a distinctive lintel design. One, the Godfrey Residence, has coursed stone on the front elevation; otherwise all stonework is random rubble stone of Scottish character with careful laying of the stones to form a rich pattern and flat, slightly racked, mortar joints

This group of houses was probably built between 1830 and 1850 and represents an invaluable example of the farms built by the early settlers following the 1820 influx of Irish and Scottish immigrants and the 1830 settlement by half pay military and naval officers. In some cases they undoubtedly represent the second house on the farm following the clearing and consolidation of the farm land.

We consider them to be of Historical as well as Architectural importance and would recommend that a much more thorough study be made of the houses as a group. There are undoubtedly further examples in the area which should be related both in time and construction.

The sixth house reviewed, located near the south-east edge of the proposed landfill site, is of a later period and is a good example of the robust Italianate period of the late 1800s. The interior is particularly original where doors and trim are largely intact.

William J. Moffet, B.Arch., M.R.A.I.C.

AROUND AND ABOUT ONTARIO

Aylmer

Great news from this remarkable town in Elgin County where the town authorities renovated the old Post Office for their municipal offices and then seriously considered tearing down their original 1874 Town Hall and Opera House around the corner! But that was some years ago and a local citizen chalked up no less than 1,600 signatures pleading for its preservation. That hard work succeeded in convincing the town council to reconsider and after various presentations also in favour of keeping the building the Town engaged Carlos Ventin, Architect, of Simcoe to undertake a feasibility study which concluded that the lower storey could provide much-needed space for the public library outgrowing its former premises and that a second stage could accomplish the restoration of the Opera House. Wilfred Chalk, that town's inrepid preservationist responsible for the building still being there, reports with pride and delight that the refurbished Opera House has just been re-opened and invited us to visit it. We hope to report further on this in the next issue of *Acorn* when we start the Ontario Alphabet with A is for Aylmer.

Ingersoll

Ingersoll's Town Hall, built in 1856, an accomplished essay in the Italiante constructed in the "white" or light buff brick of south-western Ontario is threatened. Despite a consultant's report advocating its retention and refurbishing for municipal offices or a library noting this would provide an economic advantage over new construction, the town decided last June to tear it down. Apparently satisfied, in a swift conversion to cannibalism, that employing certain artifacts from the old building in a new combination municipal offices and police station will suffice, the possible loss of an original civic design seems not to count. The present building has a large auditorium upstairs lighted by Florentine windows, the assembly room common before the opera house form became the rage in the 1870s and later, but probably used on occasion for entertainment as well as public gatherings.



The Town Hall, Ingersoll PJS photo, Feb. 1978

The local newspaper editor and publisher, Carol McKnight, noted that if local expression counted those recommending demolition were in the minority. The Advisory Board of the ACO was drawn in and Howard Walker and Howard Chapman reported that indeed the building was not only worth preserving for architectural and historical reasons, but that the excellent report already in hand provided the requisite support for such action. Many local citizens would agree as did Mary Millard (née Richardson) the great, great granddaughter of the Reeve responsible for the building who at the time intended that Ingersoll should aspire to a distinguished town hall to mark the progress and stature of the community.

Meanwhile proponents for preservation have visited Alymer's successful project. They might well look to Petrolia too, Paisley, Gravenhurst or Napanee, to mention just a few other examples, or be

inspired by that notable landmark, Cobourg's Victoria Hall. We look forward to better news from the town noted historically for its Big Cheese and, we hope, for its old Town Hall preserved.

Kingston

The case of the demolished designated buildings on Princess Street (See *Stop Press, Acorn XIII* - 2, pages 32 and 33 and other references pages 5 and 29) was concluded, a fine of \$48,000 being imposed upon the culprit developer of the time. Thus a precedent has been set - at \$24,000 per building the developer can thumb its nose at the Ontario Heritage Act, add a mere bagatelle to the total cost and to hell with the whole kit and caboodle. The new owner is seeking relief from the requirements suggested by LACAC, namely rebuilding of the original design, and, as previously reported, the City Council bent in the direction of the builder's request.

What seemed a somewhat ignorant response to this reprehensible act of wanton demolition came as an aside in the judge's remarks to the effect that 'pity the developer for that poor soul might have been easily confused by the welter of regulations presented to him'. However, let us make it clear that a designation is registered against the title of the property and it is legal requirement to honour it. How could an owner be confused by such an explicit instrument or the implications thereof, particularly if he were in the development field. The comment was another sad, back-hand slap to the conservation movement. So endeth another lesson.

Napanee

We learn with some trepidation of the new tire plant proposed for this county town of 4,500 souls or so, a factory expected to employ some 800 people. This is quite a population explosion for such a modest community and with attendant families and concomitant services such an increase will not be easy to deal with. For a town like Napanee, long stable and with a settled and pleasant way of life, this infusion may come as a mixed blessing. We hope that the community and its preservationists are prepared for the change. Also in the wind according to recent newspaper reports is a massive land assembly in the area "to include 1,000 to 2,000 units and 1.2 miles of hotel frontage with a capacity of 2,000 rooms." Whew! No mean change.

No doubt to be subject to unusual pressure also from the same source is nearby Newburgh which has the ACO's book *Rogues' Hollow* as a ready-made document for its conservation, if its council should wish to avail itself of the insight and guidance that study provides. But there are other equally interesting and historic places not far off which should be on guard too, such as Bath, and the smaller communities up the Napanee River including Camden East, Yarker and Colebrook.

North York

The John Duncan House, removed from its original site and temporarily stored on blocks in a public park nearby, was damaged by fire, but not irreparably, a couple of years ago, an act of vandalism. Support mounted for its relocation and

restoration on an adjoining site, the principal effort coming, it was reported, from relative newcomers rather than long-time residents who could see no merit in saving the building.

Not very long ago another fire, also the result of vandalism, ruined the building and the Duncan House is, regrettably, no more. So endeth the second lesson. Like Kingston, in two recent cases, and Rockwood, for another, it is time to guard against such acts.

North York, in company with all Metropolitan Toronto communities and others in the fringe beyond, seems to be sharing the same fate whether by fire, demolition or unsympathetic treatment. The cases in point are legion whether you take Markham or Mississauga. In North York the saving by moving of the other Duncan House around the corner of York Mills and Don Mills Roads, however, to become a restaurant required additions whose scale, design and execution seem to have added a further dimension to the problem.

Ottawa

Heritage is always in the making we like to think, and perhaps that recently opened monument, the new National Gallery, will be a case in point. You may disagree with its obviously architectonic statement, its soaring Safdien splendour, but on a wet Sunday's afternoon it is a particular pleasure of the Ottawa scene. While it attempts to evoke a response related to the Parliament Buildings on the Hill beyond its glazed sympathy along the front provides a most wonderful window to the local panorama from the Basilica with its twin silver spires, past the so-called Historic Mile of Sussex Street, to the fanciful Chateau Laurier before you view the Hill with towers, Library chapter-house and sombre Victorian Gothic stonework over the Gallery's forecourt of bed-rock simply, but dramatically, landscaped.

But the roof leaked! and on the pail catching the gathering drips in the Great Hall the message in yed on yellow said "Home has more for me", which seemed gauche out of place. It should have read, after we had enjoyed this spectacle and some of the exhibits "Home has NO more for me", but perhaps the authorities will correct this inadvertence. Yes it cost mil-

lions and its finely executed detail in simple massive elements certainly does not belie that fact. It may have some shortcomings other than its roof, the leaks we like to believe are temporary to the settling-down period, like Frank Lloyd Wright's "Falling Water" or Toronto's new City Hall, but it is, indeed, an experience. The Rideau Street Convent chapel, that marvellous fan-vaulted room in brightly painted and gilded wood, however, so far lacks conviction, possibly because the religious aura no longer seems to pervade the artifact. A visit to the Basilica just across Sussex Street, however, restores that reverential awe.

An opening party, including all those who participated in the reconstruction of the Tent Room at Rideau Hall, was held on the morning of 7th November 1988. Her Excellency, The Right Honourable Jeanne Sauvé, Governor General of Canada, cut the ribbon officially opening the newly refurbished room designed by Richard Raycraft of the National Capital Commission. Jean Piggott, Chairman of the NCC, was also present at the gathering. The first official function to be held there was to be the investiture of the Order of Canada the following evening.

Rockwood

Last summer the remarkable stone barn designed by Sir Casimir Gzowski for Colonel Strange in 1863, which stood on the crest of the hill behind his handsome stone residence on the east side of Highway 7 through the village, was first fired and then wrecked. That vanishing landmark in North America has lost another noteworthy example despite its being a designated structure.

The building was so arranged that heating was provided for the animals: a stone stove chimney at the gable end corroborated this. Beautifully illustrated on page 95 in *The Barn* by Eric Arthur and Dudley Whitney, its inscribed entrance lintel described on page 181 and shown in part on page 186, this historic building fell into the clutches of an unsympathetic developer who seemed at a loss to guide the consultants towards preservation of this landmark. First an engineering report presented the opinion that there were structural deficiencies too serious to overcome: this was countered by the investi-

gation and consultation clearly indicating that remedial reinforcement could be accomplished without disfigurement. (A descendant of Colonel Strange remembers with awe the long beam that spanned from end to end of the building, and the Colonel's request of his 'engineer' to provide special comfort for his livestock). Secondly it appeared that those in charge of site planning seemed incapable of incorporating this noble structure into their scheme.

Then inexplicably, but perhaps not unexpectedly, a fire ensued which gutted the building. Without further ado the building was demolished. Eramosa Township's LACAC had tried previously to encourage the developer to cooperate and preserve the building, but did not receive Council's backing. Furthermore, the Township could have followed Kingston's precedent at least and easily obtained a conviction, but weak, meek and feeble, held back. The case proves the point again, namely that the Ontario Heritage Act means little to a developer not in tune, for

it is so easily circumvented by such default and our heritage irresponsibly destroyed. It is possible that this building was needlessly sacrificed, for the project may have to be put on hold indefinitely, it has been suggested. So endeth the third lesson.

Scarborough

The tiny picturesque Anglican church of St. Jude, now used also on occasion by a congregation of the Polish Catholic Church, survives on the east side of Victoria Park Avenue, Scarborough's western boundary, just south of Lawrence Avenue East, at one of the concession crossroads of settlement called Wexford, which suggests an Anglo-Irish connection.

The parish was founded in 1832 and its first incumbent, the Reverend William Darling, had this building erected as a scaled-down version of his former parish church in England. Old St. Jude's, Wexford occupies a knoll, the highest point of Scarborough, and is Scarborough's oldest church building. The church was built on

land donated for it and constructed of local timber hewn by the farmers and housewrights of the area. Its steeple came shortly afterwards, made in one piece in Toronto, hauled on two horse-drawn sleds to Wexford and hoisted heavenwards, providentially it would seem. The bold ashlar-patterned siding to nave and tower is another interesting exterior detail: the south entrance porch is clapboarded.

Wexford has all but disappeared beneath the push of modern development: apartment buildings now hem in the churchyard, the new brick church built behind on Howarth Avenue faces inwards to the newer residential area - and mini-plazas, gas stations and the constant stream of urban traffic along the old concession roads have destroyed its hopeful origins. Old St. Jude's is its surviving landmark, and a reminder that the communities of Scarborough, like those in other parts of the metropolis, may yet be remembered. Thank Heaven: this church is designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

SOURCES

This is intended to be the start of a section which will gradually build up into a compendium of useful information on assistance in the building conservation field, ultimately to be caught in the computer net, perhaps for periodic publication as a source book. We shall be referring to materials, companies and professional people whose contributions to the field may be of value or interest. The intention, wherever possible, is to indicate the example of work which can be viewed or perhaps the circumstance where unexpected and welcome relief saved a particular project. So here is the official beginning to follow on various references already under Pot-Pourri.

Pattern Makers:

In the reconstruction of the cast iron labels or hood moulds to the restored 1879 bank front at 33 Walton Street, Port Hope (see pages 6 and 30 in Acorn III - 2) a local pattern-maker executed pine models from the full-sized drawings provided. These were checked on site and proved as close as could be rendered from the

interpretation of old photographs of the detail. The patterns were then cast in two halves by a foundry in Orangeville, Ontario.

John Ebbrell and Andrew Geekie are partners in the pattern-making business responsible and, though normally engaged in catering to industrial customers in the metal-casting trades, will take not only great care, but some pleasure, we believe, in out-of-the-ordinary commissions such as that connected with the Gillett Building owned by Robin Long. Their address is:

Port Hope Patterns Ltd.,
344 Ward Street,
Port Hope, Ontario
L1A 4A6
Telephone: 416-885-8963

Iron-Castings:

Patterns of the labels to the Gillett Building were cast in grey iron by:

Orangeville Foundry Ltd.,
R.R. 4, Orangeville, Ontario
L9W 2Z1
Telephone: 519-941-1507
Toronto area: 416-846-2911

Custom Sawmilling, Lumber and Millwork:

Custom sawing is still practised in a few small mills across Southern Ontario and where special woods or particular sizes are required it is helpful to know of locations. Here is one in the Niagara Peninsula by a man who also notes millwork as another arm of his business, besides being a grower and packer of the area's inimitable product, fresh fruit.

The business, Creekwood, is operated by:

Erland D. Troup
Box 34, R.R. 1,
Jordan Station, Ontario
L0R 1S0
Telephone: 416-562-4650

Wavy Window Glass:

How often have you noticed, and admired, the quality of original crown or early hand-blown window glass with bubbles, striations, swirls and those incomparable distorted reflections of their mirror effect. Such distortions also help to make

interiors more private, we might add, and tend to spoil the fun of peeping antiquarians, not to mention building conservationists! (That is of course if you remember not to leave your curtains undrawn when you turn on the light at night). You may have robbed the local wreckers' yards of old sash and storm windows often containing glass of inferior quality or brought in every old pane from the barn where the original windows might have been relegated when great-grandmother insisted on cleaning only sixteen instead of ninety-six glass corners some century ago. It is amusing to recall how Victoria Hall's mirrored glazing was restored with salvage from the Dale greenhouses being demolished in Brampton. (Acorn I - pages 1 and 2).

Driving down Highway 55 (the Niagara Stone Road leading out old Niagara-on-the-Lake towards St. Catharines) we noticed some marvellous rumpled glass in a recent greenhouse extension to a farm market and determined to find out more about it, for we had almost 300 panes in two sizes to replace in Port Hope's 1845 Gillett Building.

Voila! The material was Tempered Greenhouse Quality Double Strength sheet glass. Greenhouse quality is an inferior grade of sheet glass, but does not have the blemishes associated with early glass manufactured by much cruder methods. However the heat-treatment responsible for the tempering and, incidentally, increasing its strength some five times, produces the cockled surface creating the desired mirror effect. Other unexpected advantages are that tempering requires the edge of the glass to be ground smooth so that the sharp corners hard on hands are removed and, that if broken by accident, the pane disintegrates into myriad harmless granules rather than the wickedly sharp shards of untempered glass. The greatest boon of all was that tempered greenhouse quality glass was actually cheaper than ordinary window grade stuff! Furthermore, the mirror effect was restored to Robin Long's project in the process.

The Gillett Building order was obtained through:

Paul Boers Greenhouse
Construction Ltd.,

Box 134, Regional Road 81,
St. Davids, Ontario
L0S 1P0
(John Schulenberg, General
Manager)
Telephones: 416-262-4911
262-5122

Wood Shingles:

B.C. red cedar shingles are most commonly used in restoring wooden roof coverings, yet the authentic Ontario material is still available in Eastern White Cedar. We have been on the lookout for this and some time ago passed a truckload being transported from the Beauce in Quebec.

Recently, however, Mark Kieffer, working on the old inn at Grafton for the new owner, Peter Dalglish, found a supplier in the Ottawa Valley area not far from Pembroke. These white cedar shingles were labelled "Extra Clear", the highest quality available and came from:

Ken Shires & Sons Ltd.
Round Lake Centre,
Ontario K0J 2J0
Telephone: 613-757-2939

COMING EVENTS

The ACO's 1989 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 28, 29 and 30 April 1989 in Toronto.*

The tentative program so far includes the following subjects:

Something Worth Fighting For;
Balancing Goals with Services in a
Heritage Organization;
Statuary Monument Conservation;
Lobbying: Learning How to Talk Comfortably to the Elected;
The Bluestone: Port Hope's Restoration Story;
Landscape Extraordinaire: The Firm of
Dunington-Grubb & Stensson.

The variety suggested should provide sessions of special interest to those attending. Sunday, 30 April will feature various tours conducted by members of the A.C.T. (Architectural Conservancy Toronto) on

foot and by vehicle to points of local architectural and historical interest.

*Not 27 April 1989 as noted incorrectly under Coming Events on page 32 of the last issue of Acorn, XIII - 2 Summer 1988.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

The Niagara Conservation Strategy published by the Preservation of Agriculture Lands Society, PALS for short, (ISBN 0-9691559-1-3) is an outstanding document of its kind, succinctly presented in seventy-nine pages including extensive footnotes and with copious illustrations

including maps, diagrams and photographs. It is a far too telling story of our community's culpable neglect of our resources, our plunder and destruction of that non-renewable resource, the land, particularly with regard to its relationship to soils and micro-climate represented by a large part of the Niagara peninsula. However this book does not stop with the current horrifying state of affairs, but offers recommendations to arrest the present relentless decay of this fragile part of the environment. Yes, it is indeed worth reading and at \$5.00 plus \$1.00 for handling it is indeed a most informative bargain: you get far more than you pay for.

Available from:

The Preservation of Agricultural
Lands Society
P.O. Box 1090,
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 7A3

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

You will notice in ACORN, right under the address inside the cover, and also on the Conservancy letterheads, that The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Inc. is a society incorporated for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for *the protection of its place of natural beauty*. I believe the underlined words are sometimes forgotten.

I was pleased to note in the Stowe, Vermont, U.S.A. STOWE REPORTER newspaper for August 4, 1988, that Vermonters are interested in preserving the character of Stowe's scenic roads. Many Canadians drive over these beautiful, winding roads every year. When Shaw Hill residents learned their dirt road was to be rebuilt to the "specs of Route 100" as one resident put it, public outcry in support of preserving the character of Stowe's scenic roads has prompted town officials to take a closer look at establishing a new ordinance designed to preserve them. Such an ordinance would lock in components such as a road's width, alignment, and grade of surface. It was mentioned that "for the sake of development, safety and speed the majestic trees which line these roads are being cut down and old stone walls are being used as roadbed material."

While we don't have Vermont's glorious views of mountains, we do have some beautiful, winding scenic roads, and these should be preserved so that future generation could enjoy them.

Dr. Peter John Stokes has harkened to the underlined words and written about the preservation of trees as early as the spring issue of the 1979 ACORN.

Yours truly,
Marion Walker Garland

The Heritage Fund

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc., in conjunction with the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications is now operating The Heritage Fund.

The Heritage Fund will assist in the restoration of those buildings within the Province of Ontario which have been designated or are pending designation under the Ontario Heritage Act, Part VI or V.

Funds made available will be based on the general principle that the monies will be used to conserve and restore those distinguishing features described in the designation by-law and for the structural soundness and integrity of the property.

Applications for assistance from the A.C.O. will be received at this time.

Application forms are available from Branch presidents or the Head Office, 10 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3. Phone No. (416) 367-8075

